FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 MARCH 1987

Chadian Conflict

Faya Largeau, reportedly the last Libyan stronghold in Chad, was taken by government troops 27 March, according to a military communique carried by Ndjamena radio. The GUNT's clandestine Bardai radio acknowledged that its forces had made an "orderly tactical withdrawal" from the town. Despite losing Faya, the Libyans continued bombing the oasis and Ouadi Doum on 29 March, Ndjamena radio reported. Elsewhere, 88 fleeing Libyan soldiers were killed and 14 taken prisoner northeast of Zouar in the Tibesti mountains on 28 March, according to AFP.

Sudan's interior minister called on Libyan forces present on Sudanese territory to leave immediately, SUNA reported. The entry of Libyan forces into its territory brought Sudan's mediation efforts in Chad to a "dead end" and destabilized the situation on the borders with Libya and Chad, he said. In a related development, police in Western Sudan captured weapons belonging to GUNT, SUNA reported citing a Sudanese paper. "Large numbers" of Libyan troops are still stationed in the country, according to the paper.

However, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told the Council of Ministers that the issue of Libyan troops on Sudan's western borders has been resolved after recent contacts with the Libyan leadership and is "now considered closed," SUNA reported.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted in a 28 March speech carried by Tripoli television that there have been no Libyan forces in Chad since 1983. Claims that Libya is trying to colonize Chad and the "artificial clamor by imperialist circles" that "hordes" of Libyan troops are entering Sudanese territory aim to "distort the liberationary role" of Libya, he maintained. If France does not leave Chad, the Libyan leader asserted "there will be a long and bitter confrontation" because Libya will side with the Chadian liberation forces. He said Libya has not yet decided to enter Chad but could "enlist half a million Libyans and march on Chad and what lies beyond" if it so desired.

In a recent U.S. television interview cited by JANA, Al-Qadhdhafi warned the United States that continued aggression against Libya would lead to "serious consequences" in the regional balance of power. "Libya might actually proclaim itself a communist country and join the Warsaw Pact," he said, adding that Soviet missiles would then be deployed along the Mediterranean.

Regarding the Aegean dispute between Greece and Turkey, Al-Qadhdhafi cabled the leaders of both countries and offered to "do whatever will help achieve stability" and avoid military confrontation, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

The Libyan leader also sent messages to a number of Arab leaders over the weekend, according to press reports cited by the Bahraini news agency WAKH. The messages call for convening an Arab summit, confirm the Libyan leader's participation in it, and propose ways to end Arab differences, WAKH noted.

Egypt

Libyan Defectors — A Libyan military helicopter landed at an airport in western Egypt on 29 March, MENA reported, noting that the three crew members requested political asylum.

Arms to Sudan — Egypt is airlifting "urgent" supplies of arms and ammunition to Sudan, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed. The deliveries are in connection with the latest developments in Chad, the radio added

Relations With Syria — "It is in the interests of both Egypt and Syria to narrow their differences," Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary, asserted in an interview with a Lebanese magazine cited by MENA. Al-Baz told the magazine that improved ties would lead to detente, "in the Gulf or elsewhere."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft made two raids on oil installations near an intersection of pipelines carrying oil to Ganaveh and Khark Island 29 March, according to an Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. The planes also attacked Emam Hasan oilfield and hit a "large gunboat" off the Iranian coast. An Iranian military statement cited by IRNA reported two Iraqi planes were downed 29 March. One was shot down during an attempted raid on an Iranian island, and another was hit in the southern Gulf region. A missile hit an oil tanker off the UAE coast and set it ablaze on 28 March, AFP reported, pointing out the attack took place "in an area where missile attacks are usually attributed to Iran."

Iran has used its missiles along the Hormuz Strait to attack ships in the Gulf "several times," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz stated in a press interview carried by Voice of the Masses radio. 'Aziz predicted that Iran will not use the missiles, which have been in place "for several months," to close the strait, as this would be "suicidal" for Iran because it would "suffocate."

Israel

Sela' Resignation — Colonel Avi'em Sela' did what was necessary in resigning his post as commander of the Tel Nof air base, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio. Sela' had asked to be relieved of the post in a letter to the Air Force commander broadcast by Jerusalem television 29 March, noting that his decision stemmed from the deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations and from his concern for the future of relations with the United States and with U.S. Jewry. Sela' said he had taken this "personal and uninfluenced independent decision" despite being "flooded" with appeals from inside and outside the air force to continue in his post. Sela's request was approved by the defense minister and chief of staff, the television noted.

Herut Convention — Prime Minister Shamir gained a "resounding victory" over his chief rival, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, in the elections at the Herut Convention 29-30 March, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Shamir was unaniomously reelected leader while Levi only narrowly retained the deputy leadership, the radio said, noting that Levi made a "bitter" closing speech in which he accused supporters of Shamir, Moshe Arens, and Ari'el Sharon of ganging up against him. Political resolutions adopted at the convention include a motion that defines an international conference as a "foolish and destructive notion that should be firmly opposed," the radio noted.

Lebanon

Security Situation — Five people were killed by a car bomb in West Beirut 28 March, Beirut radio reported, noting that the explosion occurred near the Syrian military observers' headquarters. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said it was informed by an anonymous caller that the "Long Arm" organization was responsible for the attack, which was aimed at assassinating "butcher" Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. Although Voice of Lebanon radio announced that six Syrian soldiers were ambushed and killed in northern Lebanon the same day, a Syrian military source cited by the clandestine Voice of the People denied this "completely unfounded" report.

In southern Lebanon, three "terrorists" were killed and five IDF soldiers were wounded in a 29 March clash near villages that are known to be centers for Hizballah and other Shi'ite groups, according to Jerusalem radio.

Hostages — The Syrians are preparing a "big show" for the release of U.S. hostages kidnapped 24 January, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat asserted in an AFP interview. Another PLO official told the FRG's *Der Spiegel* that Hizballah is holding two West German hostages, DPA noted. However, Hizballah denied any connection with the hostages issue in a statement broadcast by Voice of National Resistance radio. In East Beirut, Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' stressed that his organization is not holding any Iranian hostages, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

Camps War — PLO leader 'Arafat told AFP that 3 women were killed and 10 wounded when the Amal Movement opened fire at Palestinian demonstrators demanding food 29 March. Meanwhile, the PNSF urged Syria to compel Amal to lift its siege of Palestinian camps, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported.

Tunisia-Iran

The discovery of a plot to overthrow the government and replace it with a "fundamentalist regime based on the Shari'ah" led to the decision to break ties with Iran, Tunis radio revealed reporting on a 27 March press conference at the Information Ministry. Officials told reporters Khomeyniite Islamic groups in Tunisia linked to the Iranian Revolution used the university and mosques to promote "anarchy" and formed "Iranian-style revolutionary cells" to "pounce on the regime to wear it down and pave the way for its collapse." Detailing the Iranian Embassy's propaganda activities, officials said they aimed to exploit an atmosphere allegedly "ripe for a revolution Khomeyni-style." Collusion between the Iran and the Khomeyniite movement also involved Tunisian groups abroad, the officials added, citing as an example a terrorist recently arrested in Paris who was trained and funded by the Iranian Embassy.

According to unofficial sources cited by AFP, Tunisian police arrested "several dozen" fundamentalists belonging to the "Islamic Tendency Movement" who were reportedly involved, including the group's president, Rachid Ghannouchi.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denounced U.S. threats of military intervention in the Persian Gulf in a recorded speech carried by Tehran radio on 28 March. Stressing that the world has changed, Khomeyni said it is no longer possible today "to disrupt matters by dictatorial or propaganda means," and if U.S. officials do not understand this, then they "rank among the top idiots."

Saudi Arabia

In a statement to SPA, a "responsible" Saudi source denied reports that clashes took place on the border with the YAR 24 March, and said they were nothing more than "routine border search operations." The claims are no more than "wishful thinking" by those tho "are not comfortable" with the Saudi-YAR "model of cooperation," he added. The source also branded allegations of Riyadh's ambitions on Yemeni oil as "pure lies and fabrications." Regarding claims that Riyadh offered the Syrian president 2 billion dollars to finance the dispatch of Syrian troops into Lebanon and to assure the president's attendance at the Kuwait ICO summit, a Saudi source told SPA such reports "aim to create chaos and confusion" and are "mere fabrications and fantasies."

DRA

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge on 28 March and made a "strong protest" against airspace violations in the border areas, Kabul radio reported, citing a 25 March incident involving two F-4 Phantom aircraft. On the other hand, Pakistan has "strongly protested" Kabul's bombing of Kurram Agency and north Waziristan on 26 March, Karachi radio announced.

Western Sahara

A Saharan communique claimed 200 Moroccans and a "great amount of artillery" were "destroyed" by antitank and antipersonnel mines on 26 March, Algiers radio reported.

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PLO Officials View Status of Hostages

Syria To Release U.S. Professors

NC291738 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, March 29 (AFP) — Three American professors and an Indian teacher kidnapped in West Beirut last January are "now under Syrian control" and will be released at "an opportune moment," Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said here Sunday.

In an interview with *Agence France-Presse*, Mr. 'Arafat said-: "The Syrians are preparing a big show for the release of the four professors kidnapped by their allies, the gangsters of (the Shi'ite militia) Amal."

The PLO chief also said three Palestinian women were killed, 10 others wounded and four reported missing Sunday morning in the Shatila refugee camp in South Beirut after coming under artillery fire as they were attempting to demonstrate to demand food for their children.

Mr. 'Arafat said the release of the four hostages, whom he said were being held in West Beirut, would be organized like that of two Saudi hostages recently freed in Beirut at the home of Amal Leader Nabih Birri and in the presence of the commander of the Syrian forces in Beirut, General Ghazi Kan'an.

"Their release is in preparation. They will choose an opportune moment, maybe to cover up other crimes," Mr. 'Arafat said.

Americans Alann Steen, Robert Polhill and Jesse Turner, and Indian Mithileshwar Singh, were kidnapped at Beirut University College on January 24. Their abduction was claimed by a group calling itself the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP).

Mr. Birri offered Saturday to exchange the four and an Israeli pilot captured by Amal in October 1986 for 400 Arab prisoners held in Israel. The IJLP announced last week that one of the American hostages, Alann Steen, 46, was seriously ill and could be dying.

Mr. 'Arafat, who has been in Baghdad for the past week, appealed to the international community for an end to the six-month-old siege of Palestinian refugee camps by Amal in Beirut, saying "a veritable genocide" was taking place there.

He said he had written Saturday to French President Francois Mitterrand and to the governments of France and Italy, as well as to leaders of the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to ask them to help Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Mr. 'Arafat said Shatila had run out of petrol to operate water-pumps and the Burj al-Barajinah camp had only three days' worth of food supplies and no medicine to counter a typhoid epidemic spreading through the camp.

Hamadei Swap Plan Reiterated

LD281106 Hamburg DPA in German 0956 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Hamburg (DPA) — According to information from the PLO, the pro-Iranian secret organization Hizballah is still willing to exchange the two Germans kidnapped in Lebanon, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, for the two brothers imprisoned in the Federal Republic, Mohammad 'Ali and 'Abbas Hamadei. This was stated by the deputy to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, Abu Jihad, in an interview with the Hamburg magazine *Der Spiegel*.

Abu Jihad (54) is 'Arafat's deputy in the political section of the PLO and chief of the PLO security service. The PLO has contacts within Hizballah, the PLO official said. Hizballah has accused the two hostages and British theologian Terry Waite, whom they also kidnapped, of gathering information on Hizballah for the U.S. intelligence service, the CIA.

The three hostages, seized in January, are presumably in West Beirut. It is important for the fate of the Germans that there be no trial of the two Lebanese and no deportation to the United States. Abu Jihad described the Syrians' situation after moving into West Beirut as a "dilemma;" if they push too hard for the release of the hostages, there is increased danger that Hizballah will murder its hostages. Syria must therefore confer with Iran to influence Hizballah.

It is his information that negotiations on the hostages will have to either be conducted directly with Hizballah or with Iran. The Iranian ambassador in Beirut coordinates the activities of Hizballah extremists on the basis of direct instructions from Iranian Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, or from Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Ayatollah Khomeyni's designated successor.

Turning to the discovery of a weapons and explosives cache in the Saarland after the arrest of the Hamadei brothers, Abu Jihad said this material was not intended for terrorist acts in the Federal Republic. According to his data, Iran purchases weapons, munitions, and food supplies in the Federal Republic for its Army, and has no reason to cloud its good relations with the Federal Republic through terrorist acts. Tehran had far greater reason to have its prisoners in France released by Hizballah.

Abu Jihad said the four U.S. university lecturers kidnapped in Lebanon, Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner, and Mithileshwar Singh, are, on the other hand, in the custody of the Syrian secret service and are being held in the center of Muslim West Beirut. They were kidnapped in January by the Shi'ite Amal militia run by Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Birri.

Palestinian Leaders Agree To Scrap Amman Accord

LD291945 Kuwait KUNA in English 1907 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, March 29 (KUNA) — The Palestinian-Jordanian agreement signed by King Husayn of Jordan and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in February 1985 will be abrogated at the beginning of the Palestinian national dialogue due to begin in Algiers April 10, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Nayif Hawatimah announced here Sunday.

Hawatimah said this has been decisively and finally agreed on following a meeting this morning with a delegation of Fatah Movement, headed by member of Fatah Central Committee Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Hawatimah said this accord is being guaranteed by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and added that "we agreed that all Palestinian groups that respond to the unity call can attend the dialogue without a veto on anyone in accordance with the Algerian and Libyan initiatives."

The Palestinian leader urged all Palestinian groups to attend the inter-Palestinian dialogue next month, stressing that the way is open now for restoring the unity of the PLO on a nationalist and unionist basis.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks Draw Criticism

PFLP Warns Delegates

JN271338 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1300 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The PFLP said today that it considers the meetings between Israeli Labor Party leaders and some pro-Jordanian Palestinian notables in the occupied territory as part of the efforts to liquidate the Palestine question and cancel the PLO by finding reactionary surrogates. The PFLP warned the Palestinians who met with Shim'on Peres and Abba Eban not to go too far in violating the Palestinian national will. It also called on the PLO to respond to the contents of the unitary Tripoli document, which seeks to reunite PLO ranks.

Fatah Terms Act 'Treasonous'

JN290755 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0715 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] In Damascus, Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, assistant secretary of the provisional leadership of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement-Fatah, has denounced the action of certain agents in the occupied territory in meeting with Zionist officials. In a statement to the Palestinian news agency yesterday, Al-'Amlah said: The action by a handful of supporters of the capitulationist line in holding meetings and signing agreements with Zionist officials has come in implementation of 'Arafat's recent statements, which made concessions to the Zionist enemy. He added: This treasonous step will only make our people more determined to foil all conspiratorial plans and all attempts to Judaize the land and its people.

'Arafat Meets With Iraqi Foreign Minister

JN291925 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1817 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in Baghdad last night. They reviewed the serious and tragic situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, with emphasis on Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah in Beirut, which have been under continuous siege and attack for 6 months by the Amal gangs and the sectarian Syrian regime's forces. They also discussed developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and preparations for the Arab League Council meetings to be held in Tunis early next month.

Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's firm and principled support for the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

Attending the meeting for Iraq were Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member and interior minister; the deputy official in charge of the RCC bureau for liberation movements, and the Foreign Ministry under secretary. Fatah Central Committee Member Brother Khalid al-Hasan, Official PLO Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, and PLO representative in Baghdad 'Azzam al-Ahmad were present on behalf of the Palestinian side.

'Arafat Appeals to Arab Leaders on Lebanon Camps

JN281900 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 28 Mar 87

["Text" of appeal from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, to Arab kings, presidents, and amirs on 27 March 1987 — read by announcer]

[Text] In these fateful times for the Palestinian people, particularly in the refugee camps of Lebanon, where our kinfolk, women, and children are facing death as a result of the food blockade imposed on them, especially in our camps in Beirut where there are currently Syrian forces that claimed to have intervened in Beirut to consolidate security, it is clear more than a month after this [Syrian] entry that there has been no security for the Palestinians. It has been decided to starve our children so that will die of hunger, to deliberately kill our women, and to make water scarce due to the lack of fuel to run the pumps.

Shatila, where more than 95 percent of the houses have been destroyed by artillery, is dying today. I am sending this appeal to the brother Arab leaders from the heart of the tragedy in view of the war of annihilation against our kinfolk in Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah in particular and the double siege by the Amal Movement gangs, the [Lebanese Army's] 6th Brigade, and the Syrian forces, which intervened in Beirut on the pretext of security. The tragedy grows greater each day, especially with the insistence of others on scoring a victory on the remains of our children and on the bodies of our women, who have been subjected to this double siege for 6 months. Meanwhile, the Israeli enemy continues its naval blockade of our camps in the south, and Israeli warplanes continue to bomb us in Sidon and the south.

Thus, our people are confronting a three-headed hammer with a single objective: to liquidate our camps, annihilate our people, and expel half a million Palestinians from Lebanon. While repeating the appeal to Arab leaders, I am sounding the alarm to warn of the seriousness of what is now taking place against our people, camps, and refugees, the consequences of which will be grave and serious in every way. The destructive effects of what is taking place there will be comprehensive and the disaster will be large. God is my witness. I have conveyed the message. God is my witness. I have conveyed the message. God is my witness. I have conveyed the message.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On no soul doth God place a burden greater than it can bear. It gets every good that it earns, and it suffers every ill that it earns. Pray: Our Lord! Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error; Our Lord! Do not lay on us a burden like that which Thou didst lay on those before us; Our Lord! Do not lay on us a burden greater than we can bear. Blot out our sins, and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. Thou art our protector; help us against those who stand against faith. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] Your brother, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

PLO Radio: Syrian Forces To Storm Sidon, Camps

JN271952 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] A responsible PLO source has disclosed a plan being prepared by the Syrian regime in cooperation with the Zionist enemy to besiege and storm the city of Sidon and its camps. The source affirmed that the information available to the PLO confirms that units from the Syrian regime's forces, from the 18th Division, have moved to the outskirts of Sidon supported by elements of Syrian intelligence and the agent Amal gangs. The source expects the Zionist enemy to impose a coastal blockade. At the same time, the Syrian regime will impose a ground siege similar to the siege of and attack on the Lebanese city of Tripoli in 1983.

The source also stated that the Syrian regime wants to deal a military blow to the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon. After all, the Sidon area is a stronghold of Lebanese and Palestinian forces opposed to the plots of Hafiz al-Asad, the Amal gangs, and the Zionist enemy.

The Zionist enemy supports the entry of the Syrian regime's forces into West Beirut as well as their later expansion to Sidon on the condition they do not go beyond certain red lines. The Palestinian source also stressed that Hafiz al-Asad's secret accords with the Zionist enemy outnumber his public agreements.

PLO's Khalaf on Syrian Actions, PNC, Gulf War

JN271940 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, has said the agent Amal gangs and the Syrian regime harbor feelings of hatred for Palestinian steadfastness in Beirut, that the Sabra and Shatila massacres were committed with the participation of the Zionist enemy, and that Nabih Birri and the Syrian regime's intelligence forces planned to massacre our Palestinian people in 1984 out of that hatred.

At a news conference in Kuwait yesterday, Abu Iyad said the entry of the Syrian regime's forces into Beirut took place with prior U.S. and European approval to rescue the hostages and disarm the camps.

Regarding the national dialogue and the current preparations to convene the PNC in Algiers next month, Abu Iyad affirmed that the PLO is serious about pursuing dialogue and wants to ensure the success fo the 18th PNC session. He noted that all the dwarfs trying to prevent it are worthless. He also warned that there are many plots against national unity and that some Arab countries do not want this unity. In addition, he stressed that the principal Palestinian groups will attend the dialogue in Algiers and that those which do not will confirm their affiliation with a regime opposed to the Palestinian revolution.

Abu Iyad held Iran responsible for giving the big powers a reason to interfere in the Gulf, adding that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war entrenches the presence of foreigners in the region, who claim to be trying to protect interests and secure the flow of oil. He called for an end to the conflict and said every Arab regime that supports Iran is fighting a losing battle and that in 7 years of war Iran has achieved nothing but bloodshed.

KUWAIT

Amir, Premier Receive Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy

LD291353 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] At 1000 today, the amir of Kuwait received Dr Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress and envoy of the leader of fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who gave him a message from his brother His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The audience was also attended by Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of justice and legal affairs, and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

At 1100 today Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, prime minister and heir apparent, received Dr Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Congress, on the occasion of his trip to the Kingdom.

Also present at the meeting were Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman, minister of justice and legal affairs, and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD291310 Kuwait KUNA in English 1152 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 29 (KUNA) — Deputy premier and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Yemen Dr. 'Ab al-Karim al-'Iryani, arrived here this afternoon on a two-day visit.

Al-'Iryani told KUNA that he is carrying a message to H.H. the amir from president of the Arab Republic of Yemen Colonel 'Abdallah Salih.

He said the message deals with aspects of cooperation and coordination between the two countries in the welfare of mutual interest. The message, he added, also dwells on solidarity "in the Arab nation against all various forms of aggression."

Al-'Iryani said he was happy to be in Kuwait and looks forward to the talks with his opposite number here Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad.

He said efforts by the Yemen Republic and Kuwait towards Yemeni unification is going on uninterrupted.

Al-'Iryani was received by Sheikh Sabah, undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the Yemen Arab Republic ambassador here Muhammad Sa'id, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

U.S. 'Double Standards' on Gulf War Viewed

JN271028 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 25 Mar 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "American and Gulf Security"]

[Text] Those with access to the secret file on American-Iranian relations, which began to revive about 5 years ago, draw a parallel between the two nations' ongoing game and the television cartoon "Tom and Jerry," in which neither hostility nor friendship last forever. Old and young alike enjoy seeing Tom and Jerry fight it out for the "cheese" and the "booty."

U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has declared that if need be, the United States will intervene to ensure the flow of oil and freedom of navigation in the Gulf. He also said Washington is considering all options to defend Western interests. Weinberger's statement followed the reported deployment of missiles at the Strait of Hormuz, thus threatening navigation in this international waterway and placing shipping at the mercy of these weapons. You need not be a genius to know from whence these missiles came and how they wound up on the eastern shore of the Strait of Hormuz. Furthermore, Weinberger's remarks and other U.S. pronouncements on that score are not surprising.

American double standards on the Iran-Iraq war are self-evident. There are as many clues to America's double standards as there are bullets supplied by the United States to the Iranian war machine — even more than the millions of dollars the Tower Commission is trying to trace.

Everything the U.S. Administration has done since the scandal broke will not make amends for Washington's chain of errors. It would be a mistake, if not sheer fantasy, for the United States to think it will receive an open-ended invitation to come to the Gulf, simply because it is up to the Gulf countries to look after their own security, and the region's peoples know how to defend themselves, their independence, and their accomplishments.

The Gulf states are anxious to steer clear of all forms of international rivalries. Secretary Weinberger knows only too well that the destruction of the missiles at the Strait of Hormuz will not solve the problem. Any settlement will have to address the reasons why those weapons were deployed there — a solution that would pull them back and end the war. The question to be asked is whether the United States is really serious about ending the war with its destruction and dangers.

All of Washington's efforts, even after the scandal broke, show America's determination to disregard the Iran-Iraq dispute both in terms of action on the war front and political endeavors to end the conflict. Only when the United States brings its full weight to bear and discharges its international responsibilities can it recoup part of its credibility and standing.

PDRY

USSR's Talyzin Makes Statement on Departure

EA292309 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Nikolay Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, and chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee, left Aden this morning after a short visit to the PDRY. Prior to his departure, Comrade Talyzin made a statement to *Aden News Agency* in which he expressed deep satisfaction with his trip to Democratic Yemen and for the warm welcome and good hospitality accorded him.

He said: Yesterday, we met Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Numan, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister. We discussed bilateral relations in a friendly atmosphere. He said the scope for developing our bilateral cooperation is very great. He stressed the USSR's honest on the side of Democratic Yemen. He concluded his remarks by wishing our Yemeni people success.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy premier and minister of the interior, and a number of members of the Central Committee, ministers, and officials. Comrade Albert Rachkov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR ambassador in Aden, as well as the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Aden, were also present.

Libyan Official Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

EA291027 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Mr 'Umar Iskhal, secretary of People's Congress Affairs at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Aden this afternoon for a brief visit to the PDRY. In a statement, Brother 'Umar Iskhal said he is carrying a special message on the situation in the Arab homeland and on coordination between the two fraternal countries from Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, to Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. [passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

Allegations of Payment to Syria's Al-Asad Denied

LD281202 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1123 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA) — A responsible source has denied the allegations appearing in a foreign report on Thursday, 26 March 1987,claiming that the Kingdom offered $2 billion to President Hafiz al-Asad to cover the costs of sending Syrian troops into Beirut and to secure President al-Asad's participation in the 5th Islamic Summit held in Kuwait last January. In a statement to SPA, the responsible source said that "such reports, which we are used to seeing in the media, seek to create chaos and confusion. Therefore, they are unworthy of attention, as they are mere fabrications and fantasies."

Delay in April Arab League Meeting Requested

LD282247 Kuwait KUNA in English 1829 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, March 28 (KUNA) — Saudi Arabia asked the Arab League's Secretariat General to postpone the ordinary session of the League's Council, scheduled from April 1 to April 4, it was reported here Saturday. The source told KUNA that this request came as a result of Saudi Foreign Minister al-Sa'ud al-Faysal's engagement with overseas assignments. This is the second Saudi postponment of the council. The meeting of permanent representatives of member countries, who will submit the agenda to the foreign ministers, is on March 31.

UAE

President Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN272007 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Mar (WAKH) — UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today. The message deals with recent events in the Arab world and ways of achieving Arab solidarity. The Libyan leader's envoy, Bashir al-Mughayribi, delivered the message during a meeting here today with the UAE president.

YAR

President Receives Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

JN291916 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office this morning Brother 'Umar Iskhal, assistant secretary general for conference affairs [title as heard] and envoy of Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution. He conveyed to the brother leader president and secretary general a message from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, the current situation in the Arab and international arenas, and the foreign threats to the Jamahiriyah. During the meeting, the brother leader president and secretary general stressed that our country's government and people stand by the fraternal Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the defense of its sovereignty and national independence. Also present were Brothers Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee, and Salih 'Ubad al-Khawlani, under secretary at the Interior Ministry for the local administration sector and assistant secretary of the Standing Committee. Brother 'Ali Salih Mansur, official in charge of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa, was on hand as well.

Libyan Military Plane Lands, Crew Seeks Asylum

NC291617 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — A Libyan military aircraft requested permission to enter Egyptian airspace at 1614 today. It was allowed to enter after all security measures had been taken, and was authorized to land at one of the airports in the western area. The three members of the aircraft's crew have requested political asylum in Egypt.

Egyptian radio and television interrupted their programs to broadcast the news.

The military plane is a Chinook helicopter bearing the number LSS 15. It was piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa al-Tahir Qarazah, First Lieutenant al-Sa'id Muhammad al-'Amluti, and NCO Jamal Mas'ud Khalifah.

The helicopter and its crew were moved to an Egyptian air base.

A Libyan military C-130 plane landed in Egyptian territory on 2 March this year. Its five-member crew asked for political asylum in Egypt.

Release of 'Technicians' in Libya Requested

NC271004 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Mar 87 p 12

[Text] Cairo — *Al-Safir* — Well-informed sources in Cairo revealed yesterday that the Egyptian authorities have asked Libya to release several Egyptian "technicians" being held in Libya as a condition for the return of three crewmen of a Libyan plane that landed recently in Egypt.

The plane, which landed at Abu Sunbul Airport on 2 March, had five military personnel on board. Only two of them asked for political asylum in Egypt, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the Egyptian defense minister, said yesterday.

Abu Ghazalah, who made his statements after watching military drills in which engineer, armored, and paratroop units took part, pointed out that "the plane was not hijacked."

However, Egyptian sources said Abu Ghazalah recently told the Consultative Council, during a briefing on Red Sea security, that Egypt "asked for the immediate release of several technical (intelligence) elements, as well as 300 other Egyptians being held in Libya."

Lebanese Radio: Arms Reportedly Sent to Sudan

NC281649 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1525 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Egypt is airlifting urgent consignments of arms and ammunition to Sudan. Egyptian sources have not specified the types of weapons being sent. This action is connected with the latest developments in Chad. Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi accused the Libyan forces of using Sudanese territory to launch attacks on Chad and called for the withdrawal of the Libyans from Sudan.

Under the terms of the defense treaty signed by Egypt and Sudan in 1977, either country may provide military support to the other in the event that its security is threatened.

Mubarak Speaks on Sectarian Strife, Security

JN291011 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Mar 87 p 1, 7

[By 'Awatif al-kilani and Mahmud Habib]

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that both Muslims and Christians rushed to contain and smother the sectarian strife the moment signs of this strife appeared. He added that the sectarian sedition is an alien attempt to stem the Egyptian economic revival and undermine Egypt's stability. He emphasized that national unity is a national task and that despite the fact that the people contained the strife, some in Egypt are encouraging it in their newspapers. He said the honor of the press obliges it not to harm national unity.

The president noted that Egypt has always lived as a stable country under one flag, the Egyptian flag. Egypt, he added, must be above everything and before anything. The president said that, during the current election activities, a trend has appeared that aims to tarnish the honor of people and families, while all religions we believe and respect do not allow abuses and prohibit dishonoring families and respectable people. The president also said that some persons would like to exploit each incident for their own ends. They possess nonational feelings and do not adhere to the truth and to facts in matters that affect national interests.

The president was speaking at a ceremony yesterday held by the Awqaf Ministry to mark the Prophet's ascension to heaven. The president laid the foundation stone for a hospital built for the Awqaf employees and workers and their families.

The president was received on arrival at the celebration site by Dr 'Ali Lutfi, speaker of the Shura Council; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Al-azhar Grand Imam Shaykh Jad al- Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq; Awqaf Minister Muhammad Mahjub; Health Minister Raghib Duwaydar; and Muhammad Abu Bakr, administrator of the Misr al-Jadidah area [in Cairo].

After shaking hands with them the president was briefed on the hopsital by Awqaf Ministry Under Secretary Isma'il Mar'i who said: This is the first hospital for the Awqaf Ministry workers and the employees of the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs and their families. It will serve 45,000 Muslim clergymen, preachers, and employees. It is a model hospital and includes all types of specializations. It will be build in two stages: The first stage consists of four stories, which will include 60 beds and an outpatient department; and the second stage three stories, including 60 beds. He said the first stage will be completed after 20 months and the second stage 8 months later.

The president asked that the completion time be only 2 years. The hospital will cost 8.5 million pounds to build and equip. The first stage will cost 4 million pounds and the second stage 3 million, while the cost of the land is 1.5 million. Mar'i said the hospital's facade will be built in the Islamic style.

The president then laid the foundation stone. He then met with the Islamic preachers, the Awqaf clergymen from all governorates, a number of former ministers of Awqaf, a number of bishops and patriarchs and other Christian clergymen, and a number of Arab and Islamic ambassadors. The ceremony began with a Koranic recitation followed by a speech by Awqaf Minister Muhammad Mahjub in which he greeted the president and welcomed his participation in the ceremony. He reviewed the Ministry's achievements in propagating the Islamic faith at home and abroad.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the president had told the ulema at the start of the meeting: I am not going to speak about Islamic propagation in your presence because you are the men responsible for this propagation. You can speak about this more than I can and with copious knowledge. However, I am eager to speak with you as Egyptian Muslims and Christians about the issues of our country and nation and put the facts before you. The president indicated that Egypt is passing through a period characterized by political activity because of the elections. He said: This is taking place under certain economic circumstances, which you know and which we will overcome, God willing. This demands that every Egyptian, regardless of his position or religion, realizes that reforms and overcoming economic difficulties represent the future of Egypt and its sons.

The president indicated that he will discuss a number of issues pertaining to the current stage so that the facts will be clear to every propagationist. He indicated that the audience are all propagationists, whether they are in a mosque or church, and therefore, they must all realize all the facts. He said: We are witnessing an improvement in our economic situation, and this is reflected by the tangible increase in tourism figures. He noted what he had seen and what the people had felt during his visit to Luxor, the volume of tourism there, and the full occupation of the city's hotels. The president said that there is an improvement in oil prices and a positive development in the current talks with the IMF, which could give the Egyptian economy breathing space. All these are good signs that there is an improvement in our economic situation and means that we are capable of confronting and overcoming our problems. All this will undoubtedly take place under the stability Egypt enjoys, which all the Egyptians are eager to maintain.

The president said: Regrettably, all this was accompanied by rumors and alien attempts that were intended to hamper Egypt's progress, curtail the start of its economic revival, and undermine its stability. Undoubtedly, this is an alien effort aimed at inciting sedition among the sons of the one Egyptian nation. However, all the citizens were faithful to their country and realized the danger this posed to their present and future generations. When this sectarian sedition appeared suddenly during this period, these alien signs and fabricated state of affairs were confronted and contained through the awareness of every Egyptian Muslim and Christian, praise be to God. The president said: Despite these sudden signs, which were contained due to the awareness of the people, some people from outside like to speak profusely in their press about this and about what is happening in Egypt. We must realize and appreciate that this will adversely affect this revival and this economic progress. This would affect tourism and cause hesitation regarding capital and investment. It would affect the economy and subsequently have a serious impact on the future. The president affirmed that Egypt has always lived in stability under the one flag, the Egyptian flag. He said that Egypt must come before and above everything, because national unity is a national objective that affects all Egyptians. The press must honor its charter and integrity and not encroach on national unity. If some believe that they can achieve a political gain in the elections through this instigation, they are mistaken. President Mubarak said: We have to be God-fearing with regard to our homeland. We must sow benevolence to reap benevolence. Moreover, we must refrain from sowing evil because it will only generate evil and endanger the homeland.

The Precident pointed out that during this active preelection phase a wave of slander against people and families has surfaced, although all religions in which we believe and whose values we respect do not permit the exchange of abuses or the slandering of families and respectable people. The president also pointed out that political, economic, or social incidents take place on Egyptian territory and are natural occurrences and that we tackle each incident according to its nature. Decisionmaking in Egypt is always governed by the people's interest, he said. Decisions always take into account the interest of all Egyptians because decisions are a trust and a responsibility for the people's interest. Some people, however, are eager to exploit any incident for their own benefit without regard for the national conscience, which calls for commitment to right and truth in all that is related to the nation's interests. The path will always be a path of truth and will involve the presentation of facts to the people, he added. We should safeguard our people and seek facts in what we propose and in discussing incidents in our country.

The president then touched on the economic issue. While discussing loans, he addressed the Awqaf scholars and the Muslim and Christian audience, saying that he speaks truthfully and sincerely from the holiest rostrum because words uttered from it are a trust and a responsibility and, therefore, facts must be presented to them.

The president then explained the issue of the loans Egypt has received since the beginning of the 5-year development plan in 1982 until today. These loans have totalled $10 billion, $1.2 billion of which have been used to import wheat, which constitutes the daily food of all citizens and the daily bread of 50 million citizens in Egypt. Moreover, the sum of $1.8 billion has been used to import the production requirements, major crude materials, and spare parts to operate factories so production will continue. The remaining $7 billion is devoted to the important, necessary infrastructure requirements to achieve development in all fields, as well as to meet the people's demands for water, electricity, roads, and telephones. The president asserted that the loans have not been used to purchase consumer products. Any company or body that requests a loan must repay it from its production.

The president pointed to the achievements in the electricity field in particular. The power generated in Egypt before 1952 is estimated at 500,000 kilowatt-hours. From 1952 to 1982, with all the projects implemented during this period, the generated power amounted to 18 billion kilowatt-hours. The power expected to be produced by the end of the plan in July 1987 amounts to 45 billion kilowatt-hours. This means that during 75 years [as published] a power generating capability of 18 billion kilowatt-hours was achieved, while during 5 years this capability reached 27 billion kilowatt-hours. This energy is necessary to operate factories and provide power for industrial and agricultural projects and to provide electricity for the rural areas, which is the right of every peasant. Although power consumption is great, we must curtail home consumption. We must open new spheres for energy production, so we will be able to continue to expand the use of alternative energy sources by focusing on solar energy. He referred to the success of the exploitation of solar energy in the Suez Canal for purposes of guidance, illumination, and home consumption. He also referred to the importance of exploiting wind and water. The president said the subject of atomic energy is still being studied, but no decision has yet been reached in this regard.

The president also dwelt on the subject of radioactive contamination, which was raised during the electoral campaign, indicating that he had earlier said at more than one popular conference that Egypt will not allow any contaminated commodity to enter Egypt. However, one-upmanship prompted some to cast doubts, he added. The president wondered how any Egyptian can imagine his government would harm him, and in whose interest it would be? He stressed that the government is eager to intensify controls on all goods before importing them.

The president then spoke about stability and how maintaining stability is in Egypt's interest. He said it is the responsibility of every Egyptian citizen to safeguard this stability for the sake of our present and future as well as for future generations. This political and social stability, he said, are essential for economic stability, which is based on the reassurance of both the Egyptian and foreign capital. Under this stability we can achieve prosperity and increase production. This means increasing wages and improving living standards. We do not increase wages by increasing the money in circulation if there is no increase in production because this would mean increased inflation. According to the current rates of development, production will increase and achieve a surplus. Wages and income would then increase.

The president stressed that each day is better than the day before and that the Egyptian citizen is now on the road that will provide him with a dignified life and reasonable income. The president expresed his pleasure at and pride in the Egyptian products he saw at the international fair — a fair that was visited by thousands of Egyptians daily. The president indicated that Egyptian industry has developed following the development of factories and said such development was expected years ago. With the new technology and with the experience and skill of our workers, Egyptian products attained high standards equal to foreign products and even more competitive. In this regard, the president cited the remarks made by theZairian, Ugandan, and Congolese presidents on their impressionsabout the great development and good quality of Egyptian products. The made-in-Egypt label has begun to be indicative of a good commodity, he said.

The president then spoke about Egypt's relations with the United States and U.S. aid to the Egyptian economy, as well as bilateral cooperation in all areas. He also spoke about cooperation with the Soviet Union in the field of economy, stressing that Egypt will not accept any foreign bases on its land and will not make any decision that harms the people or their sovereignty. No decision related to the homeland's will and sovereignty is made without consulting the people. Egypt is a state of institutions, and rule in it is not autocratic.

The president touched on Egyptian-Israeli relations and the difficult negotiations that led to the arbitral compromise agreement on Tabah and said: We do not hide our contacts with the Israeli politicians from the people because they are public contacts. The president then spoke about Israel's approval of holding an international conference, which was an Arab demand, and about the efforts exerted to hold this international peace conference to reach a just solution to the Palestine question. He said: We make peace but do not capitulate. We negotiate with confidence because we possess determination and are not ready to relinquish our sovereignty. At this point one of the audience shouted God is great and long live Mubarak. The president replied: God is great and long live Egypt.

The president then touched on Egypt's relations with the Arab countries and said: Egypt's relations with its Arab sisters are good and there are constant contacts with them. He added that Egypt is always seeking to achieve Arab solidarity in the interest of the entire Arab nation. He said: We pray that God will guide some of our brothers. The president stressed that Egypt is playing its Arab and historic role from the position of its genuine Arab affiliation. The president expressed surprise at the statements made by some Algerian officials on Egypt's return and on asking it to take a step toward the Arabs. Hestressed that Egypt has its own policy and accepts no trusteeship over its decisions. Egypt's Arabism is beyond suspicion, and its relations with its brothers are more than a question of ambassadors. Egypt, he said, exerted and will continue to exert all efforts for the Arab nation, believing in its pioneering role throughout history. He said that Egypt's strength and pioneering role are based on its scholars, universities, Al-Azhar, intellectuals, workers, peasants, and Armed Forces.

Replying to a question on the situation in Chad, the president said that the Libyan leadership has sent the Libyan people to their death in a war with which they have nothing to do. He added that the Libyan people's sons are being killed in Chad for no pan-Arab objective except the desire to expand and commit aggression on neighbors.

Responding to another question on the application of Islamic shari'a, the president said Islamic shari'a is applied in Egypt, adding that Egypt is the minaret of Islam and that the overwhelming majority of current laws in Egypt conform with the shari'a. However, he said, we must exert efforts to build the society. Adherence to values, virtues, good manners, and the values of Islam should govern human relations. We should avoid fanaticism, abide by the heavenly laws, and study things in a rational manner. All the laws presented to the People's Assembly conform with the Islamic shari'a. We must learn a lesson from those who came before us and we must turn our thoughts quietly away from fanaticism because we are maintaining the Islamic legislations.

Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub had earlier delivered a speech in which he stressed that his ministry concerns itself with the holy Koran, which is the origin of Islam and its program in religion and everyday life.

Therefore, he added, Koranic institutes were established throughout Egypt to teach the Koran to Muslim children in the first stages of education so that they will become bricks in the edifice of the Al-azhar institutes, which qualify them to carry the message of having faith in God. There are 103 of these institutes at a cost of 0.5 million Egyptian pounds annually.

The ministry also set up 1,000 classes to teach the Koran without stipulating a manditory age for the people involved. It also set up councils in charge of training in Koranic recitation to all interested people. This came in the speech the minister delivered yesterday at the celebration held on the occasion of the prophet's journey to Jerusalem and ascension to heaven.

He added that the ministry also takes care of the interests of about 5,000 Koran reciters in mosques and said: Since I was honored to assume responsibility at the ministry, I have deemed it necessary to improve the social and material situation of the men of religion. Therefore, their allowances have been increased to about 0.75 million pounds annually as of last January.

The minister indicated that Egypt's care for Islamic world youth is represented in the cultural and social attention given by the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs to 1,000 Muslim youths, particularly in Africa and Asia, who represent over 70 countries, to study in Egypt's universities, institutes, and schools.

The minister explained that wisdom and good sermons calling for faith in God contribute to developing the society by bringing up good citizens, regardless of position. Therefore, the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs established over 200 Islamic centers within the popular, labor, and student gatherings. The incentives and the allowances given for classes held by mosque preachers and imams were increased last January to reach 0.75 million pounds annually.

He said that the hospital, whose cornerstone was laid yesterday was built especially for the Awqaf Ministry ulema and other workers at an initial cost of 7 million pounds and can accommodate 120 beds. He added that the ministry is studying the possibility of extending this medical service to other governorates. He said that the preachers do not forget the decision to support Islamic preaching with a sum of 20 million pounds. The first installment of this sum has been received, praise be to God, he concluded.

Al-Baz Discusses Improving Relations With Syria

NC282018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Beirut, 28 Mar (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed that it is in the interests of both Egypt and Syria to narrow their differences. He also said that he would not describe Egypt's relations with Syria and Libya as tense. Dr al-Baz went on to state that, despite the difference of opinion between Egypt and Syria regarding their respective policies on certain issues, he does not feel Egyptian-Syrian relations are tense, adding: It should not be forgotten that whatever harms Syria's security harms Egypt's security, and vice versa.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine *Al-Usbu' al-'Arabi* to be published Monday, Al-Baz declared that Egypt always welcomes any narrowing of differences and expansion of the scope for accord. He noted that Egypt has no desire to impose on Syria any stand that is not acceptable to it. He said Egypt makes no demands in this respect, and its only purpose in a rapprochement with Syria would be to achieve the mutual interests of the two countries and of the Arab world as a whole. Dr al-Baz expressed his belief that improved relations between Egypt and Syria will lead to detente, in the Gulf or elsewhere. He expressed the belief that the common interests of both Egypt and Libya are far greater than their disputes, declaring that Libyan national security is closely linked to Egyptian national security and vice versa. Dr al-Baz also stated that there is much to be done if Egypt's relations both with Syria and with Libya are to be reformulated. He noted that Egyptian policy is very open in this respect, and that there are no real differences between Egypt and any other Arab country.

Dr al-Baz called for the establishment of a comprehensive security system capable of dealing with the dangers and threats the Arab world is now facing. It must be ensured that each Arab country adheres to its commitments under the Arab League Charter and the Arab Defense Pact. He said: President Mubarak's proposal in Kuwait that common understanding should be reached on general or strategic security for the Islamic nation is in essence a plan for Arab security. Dr al-Baz added: If the Arabs were able to defend pan-Arab security and draw up a new and sound system to maintain this security, this would constitute the infrastructure of the Islamic nation's general security. He noted that the success achieved in this respect is attributable to Egypt's freedom of movement at the Kuwait ICO summit.

Dr al-Baz said he is pleased to see signs of the resumption of coordination between Jordan and the PLO, noting that relations between the two parties are essential. He said: Although we are encouraging the resumption of coordination, we do not regard Egypt as a mediator between Jordan and the PLO. We are as directly involved in this issue as the brothers in Jordan and in the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people themselves.

Discussing the international conference on Middle East peace, Al-Baz said Egypt believes that Israel and the United States should agree to the convocation of the conference to enable the Arabs to undertake some intensive contacts and coordinate the various positions. The Soviet Union, Al-Baz noted, should take part in the conference, because "without its participation the conference could not conceivably produce any comprehensive settlement."

Rejecting U.S. and Israeli conditions for Palestinian participation in the international conference, Al-Baz said only the Palestinians have the right to select their representatives. He welcomed the participation of Syria and Lebanon in the conference, pointing out that there are indications that Syria is thinking of endorsing the conference. This will be an opportunity for the Arabs to confront Israeli expansionism, Al-Baz added.

Dr al-Baz commented on the U.S. position with regard to the international conference. He said that, during his visits to the United States in the past few years, President Mubarak had tried to obtain more U.S. support for the Palestinian issue. Egypt began by asking the United States to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and went on to demand that the United States begin a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as a step toward U.S. recognition of the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

At a later stage, Al-Baz said, and to simplify the process, we decided to call on the United States to endorse the idea of a international conference, which thus replaced earlier efforts for a settlement with smaller participation.

Dr al-Baz said Egypt and Jordan are making intensive and coordinated efforts to ensure that an international conference is held. He added that the current U.S. stand could improve as a result of Egyptian-Jordanian efforts and also as a result of efforts by other Arab countries that share the same opinion as Egypt and Jordan.

Commenting on the reason for President Mubarak's postponement of his visit to the United States, Al-Baz said: The reason is quite clear to Washington. It is that Egypt believes there is no indication the U.S. position will markedly improve under present circumstances and it is better to let a little time go by. Egypt, he said, had quietly told the United States that the issue is not just one of [U.S.] credibility; there are other aspects as well. There is a fear, Al-Baz said, among several countries in the region that Washington, due to inadequate understanding of the course of events, might follow a policy that would eventually weaken the Arabs. Al-Baz observed that some Arabs have seen U.S. arms supplies to Iran as a plot against Arab interests.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, Al-Baz said that this cannot be resolved by military means. These have already been tried. The Palestinian presence in Lebanon should not be overlooked, Al-Baz added, noting that the Palestinians are living in Lebanon temporarily and eventually they will return to their homeland.

Al-Baz Meets With PLO Representative in Cairo

NC280619 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) -- Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today met with Zuhdi al-Qadrah, the PLO representative in Cairo.

Usamah Sharab, spokesman for the PLO in Cairo, has stated that Al-Qadrah presented a message to Dr al-Baz for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said this message includes the text of 'Arafat's appeal to Arab kings and presidents to help put an end to the situation in the besieged Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Ghali Endorses Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue

NC271524 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today asserted that Egypt is following with interest reports about a meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and a group of Palestinians. It has also closely watched the discussions that Abba Eban, former Israeli Foreign Minister, held with Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories. The joint statement issued at the end of this meeting, which contained a reference to the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, has been carefully studied.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that such meetings and initiatives enjoy the interest and support of Egyptian diplomacy, which sees dialogue as a way to bring about peaceful coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. It is also the means to realize an international conference for peace in the Middle East. Egypt has called for such a conference as a way to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement to the Palestinian issue. The efforts being made to hold this conference have the support of most countries.

Mubarak Lauds Sudan's Al-Mirghani for Escape

NC281041 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak telephoned Sudan's State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani this morning. He discussed issues of concern to both countries and congratulated Al-Mirghani on his escape from the sinful attempt on his excellency's life. Mubarak affirmed to Al-Mirghani Egypt's position supporting the Sudanese decision on the withdrawal of Libyan forces from Sudanese territory.

Economy Minister Returns From Visit to USSR

NC280814 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) — The Egyptian economic delegation led by Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, returned here tonight from a 9-day tour to the Soviet Union, Romania, and Austria. While in the Soviet Union, members of the delegation discussed bilateral relations with Soviet officials, with special attention given to the rescheduling of Egypt's military debts. They also [word indistinct] the economic protocol between the two countries, as well as ways to increase their volume of trade.

Industry Minister Meets With Bulgarian Official

NC291827 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab received Bulgarian Finance Minister Belcho Belchev at noon today. The Bulgarian official is currently on a visit to Cairo. During their meeting they discussed ways to promote cooperation between their two countries. The Bulgarian minister emphasized his government's desire to cooperate with Egypt in industrial fields and to strengthen this cooperation during the Egyptian-Bulgarian committee meetings scheduled to take place in September.

The industry minister welcomed the Bulgarian guest and thanked the Bulgarian Government for its assistance in the establishment of a silicon plant in Idfu. The plant, which will be inaugurated in the next few days, will improve Egypt's economy. The industry minister proposed the idea of bilateral cooperation in the food, chemical, and mineral industries as well, to enable Bulgaria to benefit from Egyptian industries in view of the positive assessment made regarding the silicon plant.

The Bulgarian minister stated that the talks also focused on the possibility of establishing complexes for poultry breeding. He noted his country's potential for joint cooperation with Egypt in prospecting and exploiting local raw materials. Veliko Enchev, Bulgarian ambassador in Cairo, and Mahmud Sami, first under secretary for international relations at the Industry Ministry, also attended the meeting.

Al-Majid Holds Talks With DPRK Counterpart

NC291550 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA) — Talks were held today between an Egyptian delegation led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a delegation headed by Kim Yong-Nam, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Cairo. The conferees examined bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various fields. They discussed the development of existing cooperation reflecting the friendly ties that link the two peoples. They also reviewed preparations for the nonaligned ministerial conference scheduled to convene in Pyongyang in June. At the conference, which is being held in accordance with the resolutions of the Harare nonaligned summit of September, ways to strengthen cooperation among the developing countries will be discussed.

After the talks 'Abd al-Majid stated that the visit to Egypt of the DPRK guest was arranged by Egyptian and DPRK officials so that the agenda of the Nonaligned Movement conference on South-South cooperation could be discussed. This conference is scheduled to convene in Pyongyang in June in implementation of the Harare nonaligned summit resolutions. He said that the DPRK is the host country of the conference and it is important to consult with it, particularly since Egypt is a founder and leading member of the movement. Ashraf Zayid, press adviser to the foreign minister, declared that during the talks the DPRK visitor expressed his appreciation of Egypt's policy under President Mubarak and its pioneering role in the Nonaligned Movement.

Kim Yong-Nam voiced his country's support for Egypt's policy, and applauded the efforts of President Mubarak and Egypt to achieve peace. He stressed his country's support for an international conference to resolve the Middle East problem. He praised Egypt's efforts in this respect and noted the historical relations between Egypt and the DPRK, which stem from the great civilizations of both countries. He said that his visit to Egypt comes within the framework of continuing consultations between the two countries on issues of common concern. He stated that there is cooperation within the context of the Nonaligned Movement to strengthen the movement further. He praised Egypt's role as one of the founding members of the movement and its efforts toward achieving a peaceful solution to the Korean problem. He declared that his country supports Egypt's just stand regarding the Middle East and other issues. He described his talks with 'Abd al-Majid as fruitful, and said that their views were identical on all the issues discussed.

'Aziz Rejects Sudanese Mediation in Gulf War

JN262005 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1800 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] An INA correspondent has asked Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, about the frequent reports of a plan for mediation between Iraq and Iran by Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, particularly the last statement attributed to Sudanese Foreign Minister Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin in which he announced that Al-Mahdi will visit Iraq soon to understand the Iraqi viewpoint after, as he put it, Al-Mahdi becomes acquainted with the Iranian viewpoint. Al-Mahdi is seeking a compromise to end the fighting until the concerned parties settle the dispute, according to the Sudanese minister.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister answered by saying: I would like to explain that Iraq has not been officially informed of any mediation plan by the Sudanese prime minister. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi visited Iraq in April 1986 before becoming prime minister. During the visit we exchanged opinions with him on the Iranian aggression against Iraq and Iran's insistence on continuing the war and on rejecting peaceful solutions based on international law. We also exchanged opinions about the Arab nation's responsibility vis-a-vis this racist and expansionist aggression and about the need for the Arab nation to stand beside Iraq. This stems from the fraternal Arab relations and commitments as defined by the Arab League Charter and the Collective Defense Pact.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We were later surprised by the statements of a number of Sudanese officials concerning a mediation effort by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi that were made before and after the Sudanese prime minister's visit to Iran. We believed that such statements, which to our knowledge were baseless, would stop after Iranian officials denied the mediation, particularly as some Iranian denials came during their visits to Sudan. What is really surprising is that these statements, despite the announced Iranian denial, have not stopped. The last of these statements was made by the Sudanese foreign minister.

The Iraqi minister added: Iraq welcomes the visit to Iraq by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and any other Arab brother. Iraq has always been ready to talk with its brothers on this subject in the spirit of brotherhood that binds the Arabs and out of the common concern for their main issues. We should say, however, that Iraq has not in fact authorized any Sudanese official to conduct this mediation out of our deep conviction affirmed by many years' experience; that is, the problem does not lie in the lack of mediation but in the fact that the Iranian regime is a racist, aggressive regime that insists on war and expansion. Had there been a serious opportunity for successful mediation, the issue would not have lasted so many years. The Sudanese officials know that there have been many attempts in past years by Arab and Islamic states as well as by many international parties. Those attempts produced no results for the same reasons found in the Iranian officials' statements in Khartoum.

The foreign minister said: We in fact do not understand the aim of these continuous statements and the great number of them -- at least the great number we have heard recently. At the same time, the scandals about cooperation among Iran, Israel, and the imperialist quarters have been largely exposed. This affirms to those who were not previously convinced that Iran insists on war not because no one has known how to talk with it on the subject but because of its racist, expansionist motives. It seeks alliance with the Arab nation's enemies to achieve its ambitions and to vent its grudges, not only against Arab Iraq but against the entire Arab nation, including Sudan.

Tariq 'Aziz added: We hope that our brother officials in Sudan will not mix policies that stem from local interests with those from a decisive issue, such as the aggression against Iraq. Iraq has always been an honest supporter of Sudan in its legitimate endeavor to build its national unity and to achieve progress and prosperity. Iraq hopes that its brothers will deal with it in this spirit and will remember that this issue is not just a political, diplomatic, and media issue; it is a decisive issue for Iraq and the Arab nation. Rivers of Arab blood have flowed as a result of the insistence on war by the regime of charlatanism, rancor, and expansion in Iran and as a result of the Zionist and foreign arms influx that has enabled that regime to continue its aggression against Iraq.

The foreign minister also said: We did not hear in the past about the ideas announced by the Sudanese foreign minister. Iraq has an embassy in Khartoum. The Iraqi Embassy has not been informed of these ideas. If the Sudanese foign minister had informed us of these ideas through diplomatic channels, we would clearly have told him that we would not accept them. Iraq does not accept a political mission only to cease fire with Iran. Iraq seeks a comprehensive settlement of the conflict — a settlement that is based on the five principles announced by President Saddam Husayn on 2 August 1986 and in Security Council Resolution 582. The countries that have dealt with this issue and the Security Council members clearly know this Iraqi stand. In any case, 7 years after Iran's insistence on war and after its alliance with Israel and the Arab nation's enemies has been exposed, Iraq does not expect mediation from its brothers. Iraq expects their solidarity, which stems from their commitments in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the Collective Defense Pact because Iraq itself adheres to these commitments to its brothers. Iraq in fact adhered to these commitments to Sudan in particular while it was confronting the plots against Sudanese territory and national unity.

Communiques Report on 26-29 March Combat

No 2,617 on 26-27 Mar

JN271725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,617 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces continued to inflict further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniite regime. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

With concentrated fire from various types of weapons, our righteous soldiers in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah killed several scoundrel Khomeyniites. They also achieved the following:

The destruction of a shovel [preceding word in English — FBIS], the damaging of another, and the halting of the enemy's engineering works, the destruction of a vehicle and the killing and wounding of its occupants; the destruction of five positions and the killing of their personnel; and the destruction of a gun emplacement and the killing of its crew.

Concentrated fire from various types of weapons was directed against enemy troop concentrations in the VII Army Corps sector. Our forces inflicted losses on the aggressors and achieved the following:

The destruction of a large vehicle and the killing of its occupants; the destruction of a heavy machine gun and the killing of its crew; the destruction of eight infantry positions and the killing of their personnel; and the destruction of several gun emplacements and the killing and wounding of their personnel.

In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, an SPG-9 gun was destroyed, and its crew was killed; a gun emplacement was destroyed, and its personnel were killed; and an infantry position was destroyed, and two enemy personnel were killed.

The scoundrel tyrant Iranian rulers shelled residential areas in the heroic city of Basra with long-range artillery, damaging some civilian property and houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 March 1987

No 2,618 on 27-28 Mar

JN281740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,618 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces will continue to be a strong proud barrier and a brandished sword in the face of enemies to preserve Iraq's sovereignty and security, embodying the people's determination through their daring activities in all the theaters of operations. The following are the overall activities of our units for last night and today:

1. With concentrated fire from artillery and tanks and various other daring activities, our heroic formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah destroyed selected enemy targets and inflicted further losses in life and equipment, as well as the following: the burning of an armored personnel carrier; the destruction of a 120-mm mortar; the destruction of an 80-mm mortar and various positions and the killing of their occupants; the destruction of one shovel [preceding word in English — FBIS] and a large vehicle; the burning of several enemy positions; and the halting of enemy engineering works.

2. The heroic VII Army Corps men are continuing their heroic activities to destroy the enemy by directing their intense fire at the enemy positions and troop concentrations. They inflicted new losses on the scoundrels as well as the following losses: the destruction of 19 infantry positions and the killing or wounding of their occupants; the burning of two large vehicles, one of them a personnel carrier; the destruction of two heavy machine guns, four positions, two missile launching sites, and one shovel.

3. Two enemy soldiers were killed and one shovel, a machine gun, and a number of infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. The tyrannical Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the steadfast city of Basra with long- range artillery. The enemy shelling damaged some civilian property and houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 March 1987

No 2,619 on 29 Mar Air Raids

JN291422 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Comunique No 2,619 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 March 87]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted praising Iraqi soldiers' bravery and condemning Iranian regime]. Today our gigantic Air Force, the creator of epics, carried out part of the punishment prepared for the renegade Khomeyniites through the following missions:

1. At 0905 [0605 GMT) today large numbers of our brave fighter planes swooped down on oil installations in the area where there is an intersection of pipelines carrying oil to the Ganaveh area and then to Khark Island. The brave hawks attacked their targets in the area, turning them into rubble swallowed by fire so the unjust people may be deprived of their oil revenues.

2. At 1358 today our fighter planes spotted a large gunboat near the Iranian coast today and scored an accurate and effective hit on it.

3. At 1400 today large numbers of our fighter planes flew over Iranian territory to launch a brave and successful air raid on the Emam Hasan oil field, dropping their bombs, hitting their targets accurately, and starting fires.

4. At the same time our fighter planes dealt a second blow to the intersection of pipelines in the Ganaveh area to destroy them further. After turning their targets into rubble gutted by fire and covered with smoke, the brave hawks returned with their planes safely to the homeland, taking pride in their glorious deeds to break the back of the enemy of God and our enemy and to send it toward its death.

God be praised for His victory; God is the best granter of victory. With thanks to our brave Air Force — command, hawks, officers, and other ranks.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 29 March 1987

No 2,620 on 28-29 Mar

JN291757 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,620 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The glorious Iraqis will continue to be a source of sacrifice and good and an example to be followed in the defense of the homeland and in serving humanity. Their homeland will also remain impregnable to those who want to harm it. The following are the overall activities for last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force planes carried out 68 combat missions to accomplish the missions stated in our Communique No 2,619 issued this afternoon as well as other missions in the operations sectors. After carrying out these missions, our brave hawks of the air returned safely to the homeland in God's care.

2. The brave helicopter knights carried out 21 combat missions today during which they attacked the criminal Khomeyniites in the operations sectors, destroying several groups of enemy personnel and weapons, equipment, and boats. They then returned safely to the homeland with their planes in God's care.

3. The brave soldiers of the VII Army Corps are continuing to extend support to the forces of the heroic III Army Corps and to inflict further losses on the aggressors, take revenge on them, and destroy their equipment and weapons. They also achieved the following: They destroyed 1 shovel [preceding world in english — FBIS], 1 bulldozer, 1 tubular launcher, killing those manning it, 1 106-mm gun, either killing or wounding those manning it, 3 vehicles, killing their occupants, 1 heavy machine gun; they blew up 2 ammunition dumps and destroyed 15 infantry positions, killing their occupants.

4. Our forces in the III Army Corps sector continue to direct their concentrated shelling at the scoundrel Khomeyniites, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy in personnel, weapons, and equipment in addition to achieving the following: They destroyed one SPG-9 gun and one machine gun, killing those manning them, one shovel, three vehicles, and four infantry positions, killing five scoundrels, three weapons emplacements and one observation post, killing their occupants. They also blew up three ammunition dumps.

5. The scoundrel Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the heroic city of Basra with long-range artillery, damaging a number of buildings and houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 March 1987

Papers Assess Carter Mideast Tour, Peace Efforts

AL-DUSTUR Condemns Camp David

JN261226 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 87 p 24

[Unattributed "News Analysis" entitled "Carter and Proposals for Settlement"]

[Text] In his news conference, his lecture at the International Affairs Association, and his statement at the University of Jordan research center, Jimmy Carter presented his views on the Middle East problem based on his political experience as the U.S. president under whose reign the most important event for this region occurred; namely, the signing of the Camp David agreements. The effects of these accords are still felt today. They have been the cause of all the confusion and instability in the region. The aim of those agreements was to drive efforts for a Middle East settlement off their natural course: an international conference whose preliminary steps began at the 1974 Geneva conference.

It was hoped that the Geneva conference deliberations would be a prelude to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, but the United States wanted to alter the course of the settlement in accordance with its interests, which sought to monopolize action in the region to serve Israel.

In his statements and lectures, Carter made the following points:

1. The Arabs did not read the Camp David agreements well. He tried to justify certain points with regard to the first framework in the agreements pertaining to the concept of autonomy. Indeed, Carter has the right to defend Camp David because it was his initiative. However, the Arabs read the agreements very well; they even read the negative effects they have had on us.

2. There is no justification for the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council in an international conference. Carter asked the parties concerned to solve their problems by themselves. This means he supports, in one way or another, the Israeli call for direct negotiations.

3. Carter strongly defended Zionism, basing this defense, as he put it, on his religious beliefs. He gave the impression that the Zionist entity must be protected in Arab surroundings. He could not hide his admiration and love for Israel.

No matter what Carter says out of office, what counts are his actions and influence while in office — actions represented by imposing surrender on the Arabs through Camp David and the U.S.-Israeli concepts of separate solutions and direct negotiations, which undermine efforts to convene an international peace conference with the participation of all parties.

SAWT AL-SHA'B: Carter 'Biased'

JN271444 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Mar 87 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Differences Over an International Conference for Peace Are Differences Over Settlement"]

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's statements in Israel yesterday reflect the existing broad lines of U.S. policy in the region. Despite the fact that the [former] U.S. president, who toured the region free of protocol and the obligations imposed by the presidency, was acquainted with Arab viewpoints and learned about them, his statements in Israel stemmed from his earlier beliefs, which established Camp David and encouraged and blessed the continuity of Israeli aggression. These statements did not arise from new convictions.

Like other U.S. politicians, whether inside or outside office, Carter is a captive of one narrow view and does not understand the roots of the regional conflict or its ramifications and developments. What Carter called for upon arrival in Israel was not outside the framework of Israel's call for and understanding of an international peace conference as being direct negotiations or a road to them.

Despite Carter's deep-rooted knowledge that Arabs call for peace, that they received him with the voice of peace and did not remind him of Camp David or blame him for it or ask him to atone for it, he deviated completely from the facts when he said Arabs must be rational and follow the road to peace. For Carter, rationalism means Arab acceptance of the joint Israeli-U.S. view of peace, which does not enjoy international unanimity, which is not based on UN resolutions, and which does not lead to a just, honorable solution to the Middle East problem.

In his statements, former U.S. President Carter concentrated on peripheral, nonessential issues. He was pushing a known commodity, which said the international peace conference for which Arabs call is not the international peace conference for which Israel calls, and is not the conference the United States understands, promotes, and calls for under a name and an umbrella with direct negotiations as its goal.

Jordan explained to its visitor its firm stand, which was also explained by many international parties. This position is the agreed upon Arab stand and is also adopted by several parties in the world, including the EC, which issued the famous Brussels statement last month. These parties also include the USSR and numerous countries that voiced their opinion through organizations such as the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement.

The Jordanian stand on an international peace conference is firm, clear, and based on the fact this gathering should not stipulate direct negotiations as a condition. It must not adjourn after the first session so it will become a formal meeting, being the framework through which all issues and problems related to the Middle East would be determined, regardless of whether such a conference takes place through pertinent committees or through the integrated formula needed for its convocation.

As the EC Brussels statement said, an international peace conference should not be an Israeli or U.S. idea excluding the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the PLO, as well as any other parties wishing to take part.

Hence, Carter's recent statements in Israel reflect not a comprehensive view of an international conference, but a biased narrow view and a return to old habits.

Al-Rifa'i Leaves for Damascus for Talks

JN281845 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Amman for Damascus this afternoon for a quick visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with his Syrian counterpart, 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and meet with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Official Amman sources said the talks will deal with the latest events in the Arab world and the coordination of Syrian-Jordanian positions on regional developments, including international efforts to hold a peace conference on the Middle East.

This visit comes only a few days after the Jordanian monarch's visit to Cairo.

USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation Continues Visit

Received by Dudin

JN281658 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Amman, 28 mar (PETRA) — Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, has said that Jordan's position on all efforts to attain peace in the Middle East is constant and clear. He added that Jordan believes a just and comprehensive peace can only be achieved by holding an international conference attended by the parties concerned and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

During a meeting with the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation today, the minister of occupied territories affairs stressed that the Jordanian Government supports the steadfastness of the people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and provides them with aid. He referred to the government's socioeconomic development plan and said it is a well studied program designed to make its projects reach the majority of people living there. He explained the role being played by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs in association with UNRWA in the refugee camps. It, too, backs the steadfastness of our kinfolk living in the occupied territories to enable them to remain in their homeland and confront Israeli plans to empty Arab lands of their legitimate residents.

The minister reviewed developments in the Palestinian cause and the oppressive Israeli measures designed to change the face of the occupied territories by building settlements. He pointed out that Israeli has built 195 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including residential quarters and settlements in Jerusalem. He asserted that all the Israeli settlements have been built on land owned by Arabs and said these lands were confiscated by fraudulent means or under the pretext that they would be used for military purposes. Later, they were converted into military and civilian settlements. He added that the confiscated land amounts to half the area of the West Bank and that the Israeli authorities are going ahead with their policy of confiscation and Judaization.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, the parliament secretary general, the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied territories Affairs, the Soviet ambassador in Amman, and a number of senior ministry officials.

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN292021 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Amman, 29 Mar (PETRA) — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received the visiting USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation in his office this morning.

The prime minister explained to the delegation the principles underlying Jordan's policies, stressing the importance of securing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The prime minister also said the desired peace can be achieved only by convening an international conference attended by all parties concerned as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The head of the Soviet delegation praised Jordan's positive efforts under His Majesty King Husayn to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The meeting was also attended by the deputy House of Representatives speaker, the Senate secretary general, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Confers With House Speaker

JN292036 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GNT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Amman, 29 Mar (PETRA) — 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, has said: We in Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, firmly believe there must be a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties to the conflict.

During his meeting with a USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation today, Al-Fayiz added that His Majesty King Husayn is still making intensive efforts in the international arena to make the idea of an international conference a reality. His work, he said, has been fruitful, as more countries now support this conference. He indicated that the recent Brussels statement backing the conference is considered a natural result of these efforts.

Al-Fayiz hailed the USSR's position in support of Arab causes, particularly the central Arab cause and the Palestinian question, which is the crux of the regional conflict. He explained that the USSR has placed all its weight in international forums behind the Palestinian question. He said that Jordanian and Soviet views coincide on several international issues, particularly nuclear disarmament, the preservation of world security and peace, and the need to keep the world free of the disaster of war. Al-Fayiz also lauded relations between the two states, saying they have developed in a way that calls for pride and continue to grow due to the directives of leaders in both friendly countries.

Al-Fayiz touched on the situation in the occupied Arab territories. He asserted that Israel pursues an arbitrary policy against our kinfolk by curbing freedoms, confiscating land, and building settlements with the aim of changing the geographic-demographic characteristics of that land to obliterate its Arab identity. He explained that the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon increase the suffering of regional states as well as tension and conflicts in the area. This, he added, requires effective international efforts to end these conflicts by peaceful means.

Concluding, Al-Fayiz asserted that the exchange of visits by parliamentary delegations will strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples and countries.

The head of the USSR delegation expressed profound thanks for the kind invitation to visit Jordan from House of Representatives Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz. He said: We were shown great attention and interest, and we sensed during our visit that there is a sure desire to promote and strengthen relations between the two countries. He also said the visit affirmed to them more than ever before the need to exert genuine international efforts to solve the region's problem and bring about a just, comprehensive peace to guarantee the right of every state in the area to live in security and stability within its borders. He asserted that the USSR will continue to back and support the just Arab cause and will do its utmost so an international conference for peace will be held, as it is the only way to achieve peace in the region.

Al-Khatib Receives Visiting Soviet TASS Director

JN292010 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Amman — Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib received in his office today Sergey Losev, TASS director general and member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who is currently visiting Jordan with the Soviet parliamentary delegation. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral information cooperation, especially between TASS and PETRA-JNA.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Lauds Tunisian Break With Tehran

JN280926 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Right Decision, Example To Follow"]

[Text] It is not enough to say Tunisia's decision to sever ties with the Iranian regime was prompted by Iran's threat to Tunisia's security and its interference in the internal affairs of that sisterly country. It must be said the Iranian regime poses a threat to pan-Arab security and works to destabilize the foundations of the whole Arab system. The Tunisian decision serves to uncover one dimension of Iran's schemes against the Arab world to incite sabotage and chaos across the Arab homeland under the slogan of "exporting the revolution" and to sow seeds of sectarian and factional strife.

Iran's attempt to spread chaos and sectarian sedition in Tunis marks the last link in the chain of Iranian practices in Lebanon, the Gulf, European nations, and those friendly to Arabs, especially after Tehran has become the focus and headquarters of international terrorism.

If, through this course of action and its hostile alliances, Iran has succeeded in undermining inter-Arab relations and solidarity, any decision like the one taken by Tunisia is bound to isolate Iran and encircle its parochial regime politically and economically.

There is no ignoring the fact Iran has made the most of its relations with certain sisterly Arab countries to hurt the Arab nation, as well as Arab solidarity and collective action, by persisting in its expansionist aggression against sisterly Iraq. Iranian threats have now reached a point where it is no longer possible for anyone to remain passive or balk at making a courageous decision.

The Tunisian Government's decision is correct and courageous and deserves to be emulated by other Arab countries that have suffered sabotage, blackmail, and terrorism: Severing the snake's tail will not kill it. There must be a total Arab boycott of the Iranian regime, which insists on pursuing the war and persists in spurning the principles of Islamic brotherhood, good neighborliness, and peace.

Tehran has gone far enough in its practices and brazen interference throughout the Arab homeland. It is high time Arabs took a stand inspired by supreme pan-Arab interests, Arab rights and brotherhood, and legitimate joint Arab action in self-defense.

Birri Makes 'New' Hostage Exchange Offer

NC281843 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 28 (AFP) — Nabih Birri, leader of the Shi'ite Amal Movement, made a new offer Saturday to exchange a captured Israeli pilot and four professors abducted from the Beirut University College for 400 Arab prisoners held by Israel.

Mr Birri told journalists in Moslem West Beirut that the trade was "the only solution" to the hostage situation.

The professors, three Americans and one Indian national, were abducted January 24th by a group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), which demanded the release of 400 Arab detainees.

Mr Birri said the Israeli airman downed on October 16 1986, in southern Lebanon, was in Amal's hands.

When questioned about the IJLP's announcement this week that one of the hostages, Alann Steen, 46, could be dying, Mr Birri said: "I am sorry if one of the hostages is in danger."

The IJLP last Monday proposed to trade the sick hostage for 100 prisoners held by Israel, an offer rejected by Israel and the United States.

Mr Birri first offered on February 7 to exchange the hostages and the pilot for 400 Lebanese and Palestinians being held by Israel or its allied militia, the South Lebanon Army. [passage omitted]

Views Political Settlement

NC282100 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] At a news conference today, Minister Nabih Birri declared that the 1943 formula has been such a failure that it is not even possible to establish another sectarian regime in accordance with its principles. He said it is impossible to arrive at a solution under the existing conditions. Perhaps what we must do now is reconsider a settlement based on the abolition of political sectarianism. All those who fear such an idea should possibly think it through again.

Minister Birri stated: If they continue to reject this idea, I see no apparent solution to the problem at this point beyond the implementation of Prime Minister Karami's plan. In that case, any plan for a settlement would be restricted to [words indistinct] the presidency would be rotated, as would other high offices. The cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies would be equally divided [between Christians and Muslims]. This is a major solution today; it is also the least damaging one, he noted.

Minister Birri repeated his proposal to convene the cabinet as a dialogue committee in Damascus. He stressed that Syrian patronage is necessary for the achievement of a solution.

Commenting on the recent bombings in West Beirut, Minister Birri said these acts are not directed against the Syrians but against Lebanese citizens. He urged everyone to help expose those responsible. If the plan for West Beirut fails, he warned, Lebanon will be divided and fragmented forever. This matter goes beyond the bounds of security and profoundly affects the political issue.

Turning to relations with the PSP, the Amal Movement leader said there were plans to establish such ties on very clear foundations and in a manner not linked to relations with [word indistinct] Lebanese parties, but to bonds with regional states and other countries.

As for the question of the south, attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction and leader of the Amal Movement, appealed to the UN secretary general to send an international commission to Lebanon immediately. This group could then see that Israel is actually attempting to annex the border strip. The call was included in an urgent message from Minister Birri to Perez de Cuellar.

Fadlallah Claims Waite Not Held by Hizballah

NC271753 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called for the release of all hostages held in Lebanon. He denied that Terry Waite is in Hizballah's custody. He also ruled out the possibility of any party staging a military action to free the hostages.

Hizballah Denies Involvement in Hostage Issue

NC271726 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1550 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Statement issued by Hizballah on 27 March]

[Text] There seems to be a frenzied Western-Phalangist-reactionary campaign to hurt Hizballah and link its name with the issue of foreign hostages. This campaign is being waged through false and baseless reports. We hereby declare our stand by asserting the following:

1. We have absolutely nothing to do with the hostages, and we will never play the role of mediator in this matter.

2. We have not discussed this issue with either Syrian or Iranian officials. Therefore, we remain absolutely unconcerned by all that is being said in this regard. We affirm that all the reports about our involvement with the hostages are completely groundless.

3. We have never mentioned conditions regarding this affair to anyone, nor have we discussed this subject — which does not concern us — with anyone.

4. There is no need for us to reiterate that all the reports broadcast by the Phalangist radio are false. They are designed to stir up hatred of Hizballah and to drive a wedge between us and the Syrians in West Beirut.

5. Local and foreign media have carried reports on the arrest of members of a so-called terrorist network in Paris. According to these reports, a Lebanese citizen, Muhammad al-Muhajir, who has been described as one of the founders of Hizballah, is among those involved in this network. To clarify matters, Muhammad al-Muhajir is a son of our Islamic people in Lebanon. He is the son of Muslim Ulema Shaykh Habib Ibrahim, and he has lived in Paris since before the Israeli invasion of 1982. Muhammad is in no way connected with Hizballah.

Consequently, we warn the French authorities not to act on their aggressive intentions against Muslims. We view the campaign to implicate Hizballah as a provocative act to which the French regime has resorted to hold Muslims hostage through falsehood and slander. Therefore, we will lie in wait to confront any foolishness that might force our people to pursue their just causes and defend their presence by the appropriate means.

Ja'ja' Denies Holding Iranian Hostages

NC272243 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Excerpts] In an interview with the magazine *Al-Hawadith*, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that the Lebanese crisis will not be solved while the Syrian Army remains in the country. He stated: We are not ready to give Syria a deed of ownership to Lebanon as the price for dialogue.

Dr Ja'ja' also affirmed the Lebanese Forces' opposition to the annexation of any part of Lebanon by either Israel or Syria. He emphasized their rejection of any Israeli or Syrian sphere of influence in the north or south under the cover of a territorial balance. He voiced his insistence on a free, sovereign, and independent Lebanon, noting that a territorial balance can be achieved through the country's neutrality. [passage omitted]

The Lebanese Forces commander said his organization will have a decisive say when the coming presidential battle begins. We will always reject anyone similar to Babrak Karmal being imposed on us by the Syrians during the upcoming presidential elections. Dr Ja'ja' affirmed there are no contacts between the Lebanese Forces and Damascus. He said the Lebanese Forces are not following the line of any party or country, be it a regional one or a superpower. Our policy is derived from our people's interests and aspirations, he added.

Responding to a question, Dr Ja'ja' stated that the Lebanese Forces are not holding any Iranian hostages. No one has contacted us in this regard, he noted. [passage omitted]

Working Team Meets President, Leaves for Syria

NC260933 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The Lebanese working team [to the Lebanese-Syrian talks] left for Damascus this morning. Before their departure, delegation members met with President al-Jumayyil, and discussed the topics for the 10th round of talks.

Delegation Returns 27 March

NC271130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Lebanese delegation returned from Damascus at noon today at the conclusion of the 10th round of talks with Syrian officials.

Liberals Criticize Talks

NC271833 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Higher Political Council of the National Liberal Party has described the current talks in Damascus as futile and lacking in seriousness. In the Council's view, inter-Lebanese dialogue is the only correct approach to reconciliation and reform. The Council noted that Lebanese-Syrian dialogue should be confined to bilateral relations, with Lebanon's domestic affairs being left to the Lebanese themselves. The Council urged the Chamber of Deputies to assume its role and call the government to account. According to the Council, a new government must be formed if the cabinet does not convene.

EEC Commissioner Meets Al-Jumayyil, Karami

NC261347 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] President Amin al-Jumayyil received EEC Commissioner Claude Cheysson today. They discussed EEC aid to Lebanon, including the release of funds in accordance with a plan that President al-Jumayyil and EEC officials agreed on during his visit to Brussels last month. Cheysson then left for Government House, where he spoke with Prime Minister Rashid Karami on the same subject.

After the two meetings, Cheysson said: I have called on the president and the prime minister. EEC aid, estimated at 4 million European Currency Units, continues, and is being channeled through the Lebanese Government, the Red Cross, and UNRWA. [passage omitted]

PNSF Urges Syrians To End Camps Siege

NC281722 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpts] A guarded calm, broken by sporadic machine gun fire, prevailed along the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camp combat lines today.

The PNSF command in Shatila issued a statement today describing living conditions and the security situation of camp residents. It urged all forces to help lift the siege and evacuate the wounded.

The statement said: We welcome all initiatives to resolve the camps crisis, the latest of which is the noble one put forth by fraternal Syria. We have expressed our total commitment to its immediate implementation. We also welcomed and enthusiastically greeted the entry of Syrian Arab forces into West Beirut, which sought to end the bizarre situation prevailing there and to introduce a security plan ensuring security, stability, and tranquility. As part of their deployment plan, these fraternal forces came within a few meters of the approaches to the camp. However, despite this, our camps, particularly Shatila, are still under military siege, denied supplies and medicine. [passage omitted]

We appeal to all forces and parties, spiritual leaders, institutions, and political figures — foremost of which is fraternal Syria, which has put forth a noble proposal — to act with all possible speed to compel the Amal Movement to implement the initiative. We call on them to ensure that the siege of the camps is lifted, that supplies and medicine are allowed in, and that the wounded are evacuated. This will enable the PNSF to assume its role inside the camps. In our opinion, it is impermissible and unacceptable for the Amal Movement to further its schemes to destroy our camps and exterminate our people in such a silent, deliberate, and inexorable manner. We hold Amal responsible for impeding and disrupting the efforts made thus far to end the camps war and free our people from the tragic conditions they face.

6 Killed as Amal Fires on Camp Demonstrators

NC291215 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] A spokesman for the DFLP has stated that a number of women demonstrated this afternoon, and tried to advance toward Sabra Street to protest the siege imposed on the camps. Amal gunmen fired on the women to prevent them from going any further, killing six. A spokesman for the PFLP described the incident as a massacre carried out by the Amal Movement against starving women and children, saying that the bodies of the women and children can be found on the perimeter of Shatila.

Amal justified the shooting by claiming that the demonstration was simply an infiltration attempt by a group of Palestinians, with the protesters used as a cover. Amal reported that its gunmen confronted and foiled this plan.

Palestinians in the Mar Ilyas Camp in West Beirut are expected to hold a sit-in and stage a demonstration this afternoon to protest today's episode.

Amal Denies Incident

NC291609 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The Fifth Branch of the Amal Movement's Central Military Bureau has denied reports that Amal personnel fired on Palestinian women in the Burj al-Barajinah camp today. The Bureau affirmed that such claims are part of a cheap and tendentious campaign, the objectives of which are known.

5 Syrian Soldiers, 1 Officer Killed in Ambush

NC280935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Six Syrian soldiers, including an officer, were killed when the military vehicle they were riding in exploded in Kafr Hazir at dawn today. According to security sources, their car was ambushed and hit by a rocket. While travelers from the area said the six were only wounded, security sources said the six were killed in the fire resulting from the rocket blast.

Syria Calls Report 'False'

NC281158 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] An official military source in the Syrian ADF in northern Lebanon has categorically denied reports spread by certain radio stations in the eastern areas concerning an explosion in Kafr Hazir in Al-Kurah. The official said: This information is completely false. It is, as usual, part of the continuing frenzied campaign to disrupt the stable security situation in the north.

Booby-Trapped Car Explodes in Beirut; 5 Killed

NC280932 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The explosion of a booby-trapped car near the popular swimming pool in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area [of West Beirut] at 0830 today killed five people and wounded several others. A number of vehicles parked nearby caught fire, and others parked between the cafe and refreshment shops on the Corniche al-Bahr were badly damaged. Units from the internal security and Syrian Arab forces have cordoned off the area. Ambulances moved the wounded to hospitals, and fire fighters extinguished the various blazes.

This is the third booby-trapped car to explode this year. The previous two claimed 16 dead and some 100 wounded.

Quoting Syrian observers, AFP has reported that a bundle of dynamite was placed under a car parked on the Corniche al-Bahr, a few meters from the Syrian military observers headquarters and the residence of Eng 'Asim Qansuh [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon].

5 Syrians Reportedly Wounded

NC281224 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] According to our latest information, the number of people killed in the explosion of a booby-trapped car at 0830 today in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area has risen to seven, including two inside the vehicle. Seven people have been reported wounded in the blast.

A military expert has estimated that 50 kg of TNT were used. He said the booby-trapped car was a silver BMW 520.

Security sources have quoted eyewitnesses as saying that a young couple parked the car a few minutes before the blast.

AFP has reported that, in addition to the seven wounded previously mentioned, at least five Syrian soldiers were injured in the explosion, which occurred near a Syrian post. [passage omitted]

Syrians Deny Casualties

NC281712 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In a statement to our radio station, a Syrian security source has denied an AFP report that claimed members of the Syrian Arab Forces were wounded during today's act of sabotage in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda'. The source declared this report on the explosion is totally unfounded.

Another Syrian security source made a similar statement on the incident to a news agency. He, too, denied suspect reports that a number of Syrian soldiers had been injured. He said there were no Syrian troops at the scene of the blast, which wounded a number of innocent civilians. He added: We would like to emphasize that such criminal and cowardly acts will not hurt the West Beirut security plan, which has proved to be very successful and has saved Beirut and its citizens from their suffering. The criminals and those who stand behind them will be firmly punished.

Syrian General Blast Target

NC281735 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1650 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] An anonymous person speaking on behalf of a group calling itself the Long Arm [Al-Yad al-Ta'ilah] telephoned our station this afternoon to claim responsibility for today's explosions in Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' and Kafr Hazir.

The caller declared: In retaliation for the terror and murders masterminded by the butcher Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] and carried out by his henchmen in West Beirut, the Long Arm Organization attempted to assassinate him this morning while he was jogging. Although Kan'an escaped this attempt, which employed a booby-trapped car, some members of his entourage were injured.

The caller added: We are determined to step up resistance to the Syrian invaders. The ground will be set ablaze under their very feet until they depart in humiliation and defeat like the Zionists before them.

The caller also asserted: Another squad from the Long Arm Organization used an RPG to attack a Syrian military patrol in Al-Kurah. The patrol's vehicle was hit and those inside were killed. Our squad returned safely to base.

Group Promises 'Large Operation' Against Syrians

NC281822 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1657 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Another explosion has been reported in West Beirut. A spokesman for a group known as the Revolutionaries Against Foreigners [Al-Thuwwar Did Al-Aghrab] called our station a short while ago and claimed responsibility for the blast near a Syrian post in Corniche Qasqas approximately 10 minutes ago. The spokesman warned that what he described as a very large operation would be launched against the Syrians tonight. He affirmed that his group will continue its actions against the Syrian Army until that force returns to Damascus.

Diplomatic Vehicle, Syrian Post Attacked

NC282152 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] There has been a spate of bombings in West Beirut tonight. The number of blasts heard in various parts of the city this evening has reached six. An explosive charge went off in front of a supermarket in Wata al-Musaytibah at approximately 2120, starting a fire. At 2125, another device exploded in Tallat al-Khayyat under a car with diplomatic license plate No 195/5. A grenade was also hurled at a post manned jointly by the Syrians and the Internal Security Forces in Al-Nuwayri. One man was wounded by the blast. Three explosions took place between 2030 and 2100, causing material damage.

'Liberation Hawks' Responsible

NC291022 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] A group calling itself the Liberation Hawks [Suqur al-Tahrir] has claimed responsibility for the grenade thrown at a roadblock manned by the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Nuwayri at 2230 yesterday. The organization asserted that one Syrian soldier was killed in the blast.

In a telephone call to our station, the group threatened to step up its operations against the Syrian army of occupation.

Al-Asad To Visit Soviet Union Early April

LD271425 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (KUNA) — A reliable Arab diplomatic source stated here today that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will pay a state visit to the USSR at the beginning of next month to discuss pressing Middle East issues with Soviet leaders.

The source told KUNA that the trip will most probably take place "during the coming week" following British Prime Minister Thatcher's visit to Moscow.

The source said the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in Lebanon, in addition to the Palestinian question, will top the list of subjects to be discussed by the Syrians and Soviets.

President Hafiz al-Asad was scheduled to visit the USSR 2 weeks ago, but the latest turn of events in Lebanon and the visit to Damascus by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil made him postpone his trip.

Lebanese Source Cited on Damascus Talks

JN270614 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The 10th round of Lebanese-Syrian talks on political reform in Lebanon ended in Damascus last night. The Lebanese delegation is expected to submit a report on the discussions to President Amin al-Jumayyil today.

A source in the delegation told our correspondent in Damascus yesterday that within the current talks to reach a solution to the Lebanese crisis with the help and efforts of fraternal Syria, the Lebanese and Syrian delegations met and the Lebanese presented ideas and formulas on the subjects raised.

It was agreed that Syria, based on its brotherly efforts, will present these ideas to the other Lebanese parties for consideration. The next round of talks will be held when their answers are obtained.

The Lebanese source said the talks were conducted in a cordial atmosphere and lasted more than 3 hours.

Ba'th Party's Al-Ahmar Receives Soviet Admiral

JN291854 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, today received Yegorov, admiral of the Soviet fleet and chief of the Popular Defense Organization in the USSR [title as heard], and the members of his delegation. The meeting was also attended by Comrade Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Ali, member of the party Central Committee and commander of the Popular Army. The discussion dealt with the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the CPSU, Syria and the USSR, and the Popular Army in Syrian and the Soviet Popular Defense Organization. In addition, their talk covered joint action to develop and strengthen these relations in the service of their common struggle. There was also a review of major developments on the Arab and international levels and issues of concern to the two parties and countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar expressed the appreciation of the Ba'th Party and Syria for the support which the USSR gives to the Arab nation's struggle to regain its occupied territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Comrade al-Ahmar also praised the USSR's initiatives to achieve peace for the peoples of the world and to put an end to the arms race.

Admiral Yegorov hailed the strong, developed ties between the two friendly countries and parties and said: We face a common struggle against world imperialism and Zionism, and we both seek to build a society of progress and socialism and achieve world peace.

The admiral said he had gotten a positive impression of Syria's achievements and successes under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Poland Expresses Support for Terrorism Summit

JN261846 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al- Shar' received a message today from Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski expressing, on behalf of his government, the support of the Polish People's Republic for the initiative put forth by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. That propsal calls for a UN-sponsored international conference to define terrorism and distinguish between terrorism and the fight for liberation.

In his message, the Polish minister emphasized his country's readiness to work and cooperate with Syria to achieve this noble objective.

Sela‘ Submits Resignation as Tel Nof Commander

TA291940 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1917 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] The commander of the Air Force has relayed to the chief of staff a letter written by Colonel Avi‘em Sela‘, in which the latter asks to relieved of his job as commander of the Tel Nof Air Force Base. The Air Force commander appended his recommendation that the request be granted. The chief of staff decided to grant the request, while expressing deep appreciation to Col Sela‘, and took his decision to the defense minister for approval. The defense minister endorsed granting the request of Col Sela‘. The following is the text of the letter by Col Sela‘ to the Air Force commander:

The deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations and my concern for the future of ties between the two countries and for relations with U.S. Jewry has led me to seek your consent in relieving me of my job as commander of the Tel Nof base. I appealed to you a long time ago, explaining that whatever job I held, it would not be a burden or a hurdle to either the Air Force or the IDF as a whole. I repeated this position in a meeting with the defense minister, in your presence, when the minister reaffirmed my appointment as commander of Tel Nof, noting that should my assignment constitute an encumbrance of any sort, I would prefer the good of the country and would forgo my appointment.

My appeal to you today, Col Sela‘ continues in his letter to the commander of the Air Force, is the result of a personal and uninfluenced independent decision, based on my education and background as a fighter and commander in the Air Force. I have been flooded with appeals by subordinates, commanders, and fellow Air Force staffers, as well as comrades from outside the Force, from the public at large, and even from U.S. civilians, expressing support and solidarity with me and pleading that I continue in my post. However, unfortunately, I am unable to comply with these requests.

I have long entertained the hope and the ambition to hold the post to which I was appointed a few short weeks ago, a job which is the dream of every Air Force commander, Col Sela‘ writes to the Air Force commander. The termination of my term before I had the chance to implement even an iota of my thoughts and plans causes me great pain, but I have reached the conclusion that I owe this to the path and the causes for which I have fought and will continue to struggle, together with my colleagues in the Air Force.

You are as aware of the circumstances of my case as you were before, Sela‘ writes, and this is not the place to repeat them. If only the facts were at stake, I would not have reached the conclusion I have reached.

I would, therefore, request that you relieve me, at this stage, of my post as commander of Tel Nof. I will, however, continue to serve the Air Force to the best of my ability.

Signed, Avi‘em Sela‘, Colonel, commander of Tel Nof

Interviewed on Reasons

TA300952 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
30 Mar 87 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yehudit Yehezqeli]

[Excerpt] "True, I recruited Pollard. He came to me, and I handed him over to Rafi Eytan. I did not do anything other than that. You think that it is not the job of an Air Force officer to run agents, that this should rather be the job of the secret services — and that is correct. I did not run him; I just handed him over to the pertinent elements."

This is what Colonel Avi‘em Sela‘ said in an exclusive interview with *Yedi'ot Aharonot* last Friday. Sela‘, age 41, handed in his resignation as commander of the Tel Nof Air Force Base yesterday.

Sela‘ added: "I do not think that my considerations were wrong and that I should go. Please write that I very much want to stay here; this is my home. However, there are private considerations and those that concern the country. America wants someone's head. I did what any other Jew would have done. However, the good of the country comes first. I am going, but I do not stand alone — thousands of letters and appeals from U.S. Jews bear proof of this."

In his only reference to the question of responsibility for the affair, Sela‘ said: "You will see, the day will come when not only military men will have to put their heads on the block...." [passage omitted]

Shamir: Move 'Expected'

TA300552 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said he had expected Colonel Sela‘ to resign as a result of the circumstances that had been created, and in his view Sela‘ did what was necessary. Shamir refused to answer questions about whether he expects further resignations from people involved in the Pollard affair. Mr Shamir was speaking with our political correspondent ‘Oded Ben-‘Ami.

Leaders' Reactions

TA292113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Here are a few reactions to the resignation of Avi‘em Sela‘: Shim‘on Peres said that every echelon shoulders responsibility for different things. No charges have as yet been formally made against Avi‘em Sela‘, Shim‘on Peres said. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Yafa Glick.

Rafi Eytan, who headed the Science Liaison Bureau and maintained contacts with Colonel Avi‘em Sela‘, has refused to comment.

Minister Ari'el Sharon told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that although he [Sharon] played no part in the affair, he knows Col Sela' as a fighter and commander worthy of every praise.

Education and Culture Minister Yitzhaq Navon said that Sela' made a noble move and opened the door to improving relations with the United States. Navon's remarks were reported by our correspondent Dick Winter.

Shahal: Some in U.S. Want To 'Complicate' Ties

TA291838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] A report in this morning's edition of London's *The Sunday Times* that information gathered by Jonathan Pollard was handed over by Israel to South Africa, where it resulted in the discovery of at least one American agent, has drawn little response here yet. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal saw it as the work of unspecified Americans whom he feels want to complicate relations between Israel and the United States.

[Begin Shahal recording] I think that certainly there are some certain persons in the United States who would like to have this question about the Pollard issue to have bigger dimensions and to exist, to continue and to exist, and I don't think that it is serving both countries. [end recording]

Shamir Comments on Pollard Investigation

TA281153 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yosi 'Abadi and Dani Vesely; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Vesely] Good day to you, Prime Minister Shamir. Let us begin with the matter of the fact-finding committee investigating the Pollard affair. This past week the government decided not to transfer the minutes of the testimony given to this committee to the Americans. Does such an decision violate a previous commitment for full cooperation with the United States in the investigation of this affair?

[Shamir] We have not committed ourselves to anything new. We did not intend to transfer the minutes of the fact-finding committee to any foreign or nonforeign element. Nobody demands this of us. Therefore I think the pressure exerted by Attorney David Liba'i was unnecessary. However, as he insisted on this and as we want — and it is necessary for — the fact-finding committee to continue its job, we issued this announcement.

[Vesely] Does this prove that Israel may have something to hide?

[Shamir] And if so, what? Look, Israel and any independent country can inform others of what it considers appropriate. Israel can refrain from announcing those things it does not find proper to announce. This painful case is no exception.

[Vesely] What, then, is full cooperation with the United States, in your opinion?

[Shamir] Cooperation exists; we have cooperated. As an extraordinary act — this does not happen at all in relations between countries — we allowed U.S. representatives to talk with our people, to question them. Our people are Israeli citizens, but we still enabled official U.S. representatives to talk with and question them. We returned documents to the United States. This is not common even between most friendly countries. It is possible to say we have cooperated in full.

['Abadi] However, there are still complaints in the United States about the cooperation.

[Shamir] There are no complaints by the U.S. authorities, except about those issues which are known and which concern the appointments of people involved in this affair.

['Abadi] Can you say the United States is satified with the way we have handled the Pollard affair?

[Shamir] We are not asking for a U.S. opinion on every move we make. There have been clear U.S. announcements to the effect that they are not intervening in the way Israel is handling the matter. Anything that has been said, in one way or another, has concerned the appointment or promotion of the two [Avi'em Sela' and Rafi Eytan].

['Abadi] Can you foresee circumstances under which the government will nevertheless need to hand over minutes to the Americans, in the wake of U.S. pressure for instance?

[Shamir] I do not think so.

['Abadi] According to remarks made on this affair, by you as well, the political echelon was not involved in the Pollard affair. Rafi Eytan, who had assumed responsibility for the affair in the past, claims he did what he did on the assumption that he had the necessary authority. Is there vagueness about the distribution of authority here, especially in view of the previous affair involving the Shin Bet leaders?

[Shamir] That remark is not based on facts, nor can I refer to what is said or not said by Rafi Eytan. Whatever Eytan has to say, he has apparently already said or will still say to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee subcommittee, as well as to the fact-finding committee. I suggest you pose these questions to him. I do not see any contradictions in the testimonies on matters I know about.

['Abadi] Following your testimony to the Eban committee, you said you had learned new things.

[Shamir] I am saying that I do not see contradictions. Of course, during the talk we had the committee asked me various questions, from which I could learn things. You would not expect to hear the details from me, though. [passage omitted]

Subcommittee Members Deny Report on Findings

TA260852 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish and staff]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Two leading members of the Knesset subcommittee that is also probing the Pollard affair sharply denied a report that their panel would find top politicians guilty of gross mismanagement.

Subcommittee chairman Abba Eban (Alignment) and MK Ehud Olmert were responding to a report on last night's Mabat television news.

According to Mabat, the Knesset unit is likely to find the country's political leaders guilty of mismanagement both in recruiting and operating Pollard and in dealing with the affair after it came to light.

Mabat said that civil servants appearing before the subcommittee had contradicted the politicans, making the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry inevitable. It would be the only way of getting to the truth.

But Eban told *The Jerusalem Post*: "So far, there has been nothing whatsoever in the work of our subcommittee to give me the slightest impression that the only way of getting at the truth would be to establish a judicial commission of inquiry.

"There was not one single shred of truth in the television report. We have spent our time exclusively on hearing the testimony of the civil servants and the cabinet ministers, and we have not spent so much as five minutes between ourselves on discussing or evaluating that testimony."

Olmert told *The Post*: "It is absolutely untrue that the various people who testified have been trying to shift the blame onto each other, or that there are sharp contradictions between what the political echelon is saying and what the civil servants are telling us.

"I entirely disagree with the report which Israel Television picked up, supposedly from anonymous sources. It is premature to make any judgement at all."

The Likud MK said that he very much regretted the "irresponsible, inaccurate and fragmentary impression conveyed by Israel TV concerning the work of the subcommittee." [passage omitted]

Shamir Speaks on U.S. Ties, Peace, Herut

TA281019 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-Ami; time and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, we have heard that Israel is going to appear in the U.S. Administration's report as a country that violates the embargo on South Africa. Furthermore Senator Inouye has expressed uneasiness about the fact that Israel, as it were, is not transferring the details of the role it played in the Iran affair. Do you fear that the Americans may lose their patience with regard to these recent affairs?

[Shamir] I do not think we are facing such a danger. The United States regards its relations with Israel as very important. The tight cooperation between the United States and Israel is compatible with the interests of both countries. The general tendency in the United States is to continue these relations despite those misunderstandings and mishaps we have recently been discussing. This matter of South Africa, for instance, was not unexpected. During my stay in the United States, I discussed this issue with the U.S. secretary of state. He understood my explanations, which are not substantively different from those decided upon in the Inner Cabinet recently.

As for the Iran issue, it was explained, and in fact agreed with the Inouye-led congressional committee, that we would shortly transfer the relevant material. We are working on it and taking care that this material is as precise and detailed as possible. This is why it is taking some time, but we do not intend to put off its transfer unnecessarily. There are objective reasons, and Senator Inouye knows this. Whatever he does not know we will explain to him further. In all, I am not anticipating special difficulties in this respect. There are problems, and they should be overcome.

[Ben-'Ami] Yesterday we broadcast the indignation you expressed over the leaks made from the Knesset committee looking into the Pollard affair. In wake of the difficulties that have arisen regarding the work of the fact-finding committee, and the leaks from the very closed Knesset committee, a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, do you still believe it was good that the government did not establish a commission of inquiry into the Pollard affair?

[Shamir] The same thing might have happened if the investigation were taking place in an inquiry commission. There is no objective reason for matters to be leaked from a Knesset subcommittee or the fact-finding committee. This depends on the people involved. At the same time, I am not sure the leaks emanated from the members of the committees, nor do I at all know that the reports published as leaks were indeed accurate. So, I would not attribute this phenomenon to the nature of the committee investigating the affair. I believe this rather depends on the atmosphere in the country, the attitude toward secret matters, and in general the permissive, so I would say, approach toward security affairs we have lately noticed in Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] All in all, are you not concerned about the abundance of these affairs, about their possible results?

[Shamir] How would I put it? I wish they did not exist. However, because they do exist, we must find out the truth and overcome them. We have no other choice.

[Ben-'Ami] With your permission, Mr Shamir, let us go over to another political matter: the peace process. There have recently been phenomena which, so we assume, may not seem desirable to you: the meetings between the vice prime minister and Palestinians; the meetings between the Foreign Ministry director general and the Chinese and Soviet UN ambassadors in the United States; remarks by the Foreign Ministry political director general in favor of an international conference. Are these meant merely as feelers?

[Shamir] I cannot say I am happy about all this. However, do not put all these issues in the same basket. There is a difference between some of those issues and the meetings with Judaea and Samaria Arabs. I am not opposed to these meetings. I too have met and will continue to meet with residents of this region. These meetings should be distinguished from the propaganda conducted by the Foreign Ministry personnel for an international conference that is not in line with the government's decisions.

However, this is the reality in which we live. I must say this is somewhat of an anomaly. The very fact that there are differences of opinion within the government over such an important issue indicates this is an unusual or abnormal thing that cannot last for long. However, this is the situation in which we live today. I hope that ultimately logic and common sense will have the upper hand.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see any possibilities for a political breakthrough in the wake of all these contacts?

[Shamir] I do not think one should look for breakthroughs. I think there is improvement in the atmosphere in the Middle East in general. One can tell this not only from the reports by former President Carter about his impressions; one can see that as the years go by the Israeli reality, the reality of Israel's existence, is gaining recognition from Israel's neighbors and international political elements. Therefore, one should not be pushed into desperate acts. It is not necessary to step beyond Israel's vital interests. I think one can see progress in the very fact that a growing number of Arab countries that boycotted Egypt due to the Camp David accords are now getting closer to it and resuming relations, although Egypt has not annulled the Camp David agreements. One can see this also in various declarations and in other reports that do not always fully reach the media.

Therefore, I believe we should pursue the course which was acceptable to previous Israeli Governments and which is the most suitable today. The nature of this course, on the one hand, should be adherence to the principle of direct negotiations, and on the other hand, I think we should prefer the Camp David path, which we agreed upon, to any other. The principles stipulated in the Camp David accords have so far proven to be good ones. Negotiations over them were stopped indeed, but that was not our fault. I think that to date a more realistic or more suitable road than that of Camp David has not been suggested. I believe we should require our neighbors and our friends to renew the negotiations within the Camp David framework. In this way we will progress toward peace without endangering our most vital interests.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, the Herut Convention is opening tomorrow. Are you worried, in the wake of the recent announcements and the deployment of forces within the Movement on the eve of the Herut Convention's second session?

[Shamir] I am worried because of what happened about a year ago. I am not worried about the very convening of this session. The convention should take place, and disagreements may emerge. The problem is how one goes about discussing and resolving disagreements, and the general atmosphere which prevails in the convention. One should, after all, also think of what will take place after the convention: to what extent all those people who argue with one another will be able to coexist and cooperate the day after the convention. This is the problem, and this is the source of my concern. I would like to prevent, to the extent possible, any strife and quarrels, any arguments which muddle the atmosphere. One can engage in arguments but in a friendly context, in the context of people who share the same ideology and belong to the same movement. I would not want to hear any insults. This is my concern.

[Ben-'Ami] Nevertheless, the feeling is that the Herut Movement is convening for a democratic session, which is almost impossible considering it is taking place at the dictates of a group of guards. What sort of an occasion will that be?

[Shamir] Guards do not dictate things. This is greatly exaggerated. They will simply keep order. This is better than summoning the police, which does not have spare forces for such needs. It is customary in Israel today to have such groups maintain order, not using force. I very much hope that we will not need the intervention of these guards.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you welcome Minister David Levi's initiative to launch, once and for all, a test of power through a vote at the convention to show which delegates belong to which camp. This may solve the prime question in the movement.

[Shamir] I view the very existence of the camps as a very negative phenomenon. The fact that people isolate themselves in camps, that they pledge their eternal support for and subordination to a single person, is a troubling phenomenon. This is impossible. The normal situation is that a person decides and votes according to his conscience and opinion. Today I agree with David Levi's opinion, tomorrow with Moshe Arens' and the day after with somebody else's, and my vote reflects this. It is impossible for people to lock themselves into a situation devoid of political logic. Therefore it is also impossible to legitimize the existence of camps.

[Ben-'Ami] The convention delegates as well as the Herut Movement members expect Yitzhaq Shamir to assume leadership in this session, end the disagreements, and bring the camps somewhat closer. Do you indeed intend to make such a move?

[Shamir] Well, I will have to speak during this convention, but I do not intend to dictate matters to the delegates. If I intended to do so, they would say that there is an attempt to impose some dictate despite the declared intention of maintaining democracy. This is not my way, nor my intention. I know it is also impossible to do this to the Herut people who are people dedicated to their positions. I think that people have a deep sense of responsibility. I support the election of Minister David Levi as the acting chairman of the movement, of Minister Ari'el Sharon as the head of the Herut Center, and of Minister Moshe Arens as the head of the Secretariat. I support this proposal for the convention because I am convinced that this proposal will contribute greatly to the cause of increasing unity in the movement and will decrease considerably the internal disagreements. I do not support this proposal because I rule others out, nor because I have anything against 'Ovadya 'Eli ['Afula mayor] or Yoram Aridor. I think that this proposal of electing the ministers who symbolize something to the movement members will result in the movement's emerging united from this convention. This is in fact the wish of the decisive majority of the movement members and delegates. This is why I recommend this proposal and will do so during the convention.

Peres Discusses Foreign Policy, Herut Strife

TA270650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at Peres' home and moderator David Grossman in the studio — live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, good morning to you.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] Perhaps we should start with the report we have just heard from our Washington correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, about the scheduled meeting Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, will hold with the PRC ambassador at the United Nations this afternoon. Can we really regard these recent contacts, both the meeting with the Soviet ambassador and the session scheduled for today, as some kind of breakthrough eastward in a bid to include this bloc in the peace process?

[Peres] Not yet. These moves represent a moderating and exploratory process. There is no room to talk about a breakthrough, but rather about paving the way. I assume that the process with the Soviets and the Chinese will take time, but we are really making efforts in that direction.

[Ben-'Ami] Another issue mentioned in Schiffer's report is that the United States may be displeased with the affairs hovering over us. Could we say today that our relationship with the United States is steadfast and firm despite the painful Pollard and Irangate affairs?

[Peres] I believe they are. I do not know what happened in the telephone conversation cited by Schiffer between Senator Daniel Inoyue and our ambassador in Washington [in which the former complained that Israel had not yet handed over the material referring to the Iran affair]. I only know that Senator Inoyue is a true friend of Israel and, as far as I know, we are preparing the material on the Iran affair. Naturally, Israel wants this material to be very accurate and detailed because, as happens in investigations, if one is not painstakingly meticulous with details there might be contradictions. I think the only reason why the material has not yet been handed over is that we want to check it over and over again; it is only a matter of a few more days.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you discern patience on the part of the Americans toward us despite these affairs? Do they understand our problems?

[Peres, laughing] What can I tell you? For example, yesterday I sat with Jimmy Carter for a few hours, and he did not ask me any of the questions you are asking me, despite these affairs. I was so disappointed; I thought he would ask me the same questions.

I think serious Americans are really concerned at present about the peace process, and I also believe Israelis are interested in this issue as well; this is a very serious topic. I also know that the peace process entails many controversies. I can remember the astonishing arguments on the eve of the Camp David accords — those who were in favor and those who were against. However, he who wants to make decisions must be prepared to go through the stage of bitter arguments and differences. It seems to me that as far as the new staff at the White House is concerned, the peace process is the main and most important topic, and this is reflected in the contacts with me.

[Grossman] As far as peace contacts are concerned, you have been holding intensive meetings with figures from the territories. Yesterday, for example, you conferred with a delegation of PLO supporters in the territories. Does that mean you are abandoning the Jordanian option and are starting to prefer the Palestinian option?

[Peres] No, I have never forgotten that Jordan is our immediate neighbor, and even if I speak to Palestinians, Jordan will remain our neighbor. However, it seems to me that we have both the wish and the chance to show the world we are conducting a dialogue with all kinds of Palestinians, except for the PLO. On this point, let me reiterate that Israel's position remains unchanged. We will not conduct negotiations with the PLO. Also, I do not think the PLO is a negotiating partner.

As you may know, a violent argument is raging within the PLO itself. 'Arafat, Hawatimah, and Habash want to merge, but to that end the latter two have three demands of 'Arafat: 1) that he abrogate the Jordanian-PLO agreement signed in Amman; 2) that he sever relations with Egypt; 3) that he announce he will never accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

What I sense in the territories is a significant measure of realpolitik. The Palestinians may advocate the PLO's positions, but they are beginning to doubt whether the PLO in its current constellation is indeed the means through which peace can be attained. We must also keep a keen ear to what is happening. For example, when both Mubarak and Husayn say the PLO must be included in the picture, Husayn adds: but not with its present leadership. This is the main point.

Yesterday, the Voice of Israel carried a very interesting program in which I replied to questions from many people from all the Arab countries. Interesting enough, one of the questions asked time and time again was: Are you talking to the Palestinians? Many Arabs live under the impression that we are not on speaking terms with the Palestinians, but the truth is that we are. We are not prepared to conduct negotiations with the PLO, but we are definitely willing to talk and conduct negotiations with any Palestinian Arab who does not engage in terrorism and who is not a member of a terrorist organization.

[Grossman] Mr Peres, the Herut Convention opens on Sunday. The Herut Movement is afflicted with madness and chaos, Minister Arens stated yesterday. How does the situation in Herut affect the functioning of the entire government?

[Peres] Look, I must be both cautious and polite. I do not rejoice at what is happening within Herut, a major party. As for Israel's image, we would really like parties to be run in an orderly and conventional manner. As far as I am concerned, the problem is not what is happening within Herut but what is happening in Israel — the effect of the disputes within Herut on its positions and on their radicalization. For example, if Herut's position on the international conference in 1977 is compared with that of 1987, one can see that in 1987 Herut has actually retreated to the positions advocated by Tehiya — and that is what bothers me from the national point of view.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, I realize you cannot be cautious and polite about personal attacks against you by Herut, and this is reflected in a recently published book about your political positions.

[Peres] You know, anybody who repeats himself on such an issue becomes a farce himself. Many in Herut believe that if they slander me now as they did in the past, the people will believe them. This is not the case; the people will not believe them, and there is nothing they can do about it. This will only highlight the slanderous talents of some, not all, of them. I am neither impressed nor affected. A politician should be prepared to take attacks and insults. Also, I would not like to divert my energies from my main effort to engaging in banal street fights.

Herut Convention Opens; Shamir Elected Chairman

TA291225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 29 Ar 87

[Text] The Herut Convention has opened after a 2-hour delay, although no agreement was reached beforehand between the two [Shamir and Levi] camps on the agenda. The session was conducted by Minister Moshe Qatzav who, following a short speech, raised several proposals for open vote. The delegates approved, by a large majority, a change in the Movement's bylaws that will make possible the election of an acting movement chairman. They also approved a proposal to make the convention the center [merkaz] of the Movement, as well as the proposal to enable each delegate to compete for every position. The delegates unanimously elected Yitzhaq Shamir as Movement chairman. In a short while the delegates will begin to cast their ballots for the three key positions in the Herut Movement.

Rejects Summit

TA292015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Herut convention has adopted a host of political resolutions, and among other things it defines the international conference as a foolish and destructive notion that should be firmly opposed. The Herut convention holds that the Camp David accords continue to constitute the sole legal basis for the promotion of the peace process. The autonomy arrangements are a guarantee that no additional state will be established in Eretz Yisra'el. The self-rule decided upon in Camp David does not mean a state, sovereignty, or self-determination, the Herut Convention held.

Shamir Reelected

TA300600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The Herut Party convention ended in the early hours of the morning in a resounding victory for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. His chief rival, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, did not do as well as expected in the internal party elections, while Shamir was reelected party leader unopposed in a unanimous show of support. In the elections for Central Committee chairman and Party Secretariat chairman, Ari'el Sharon and Moshe Arens both won well over 65 percent of the vote, while in the run-off for deputy leader David Levi got only 56 percent of the vote in his race against Me'ir Kohen-Avidov. Counting of the ballots continued until after 4 o'clock in the morning because of earlier disputes over procedure during which some delegates reportedly almost came to blows. After the results were announced, Prime Minister Shamir made an impassioned call for unity, but immediately afterwards David Levi launched a fierce attack on what he called the coalition against him. For more on the convention, reporter Jack Katzenell:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Everyone in the leadership breathed a huge sigh of relief last night when the voting passed off quietly. It was feared that, if the violence of the previous round of the convention 1 year ago recurred, it could have cost the Likud the next election.

[Minister Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the convention presidium] We were really on a very big crisis and, otherwise, we have no right to exist if we cannot avoid the violence.

[Katzenell] Qatzav was very happy to step down after a year. His feelings of relief were echoed by Moshe Arens, the new chairman of the Party Secretariat.

[Arens] Well, I think it is a disappointment to all our opponents, and it's a source of great encouragement to all our supporters.

[Katzenell] Do you think that the three votes which we have seen in the past 24 hours tell us anything about the next round before the elections?

[Arens] I don't think so. I think you better wait another year before we go to elections to Knesset and then we'll talk about that.

[Katzenell] For Ari'el Sharon, it was the first time he had won an important office in the party organization: chairman of the Central Committee.

[Sharon] I believe it showed again that the Herut Party is a democratic party, it's a great party, with deep roots in every part of the Israeli population, every sector. I'm glad that it took place in a real order. It was a beautiful day and everything went well.

[Katzenell] When the result was announced, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called for reconciliation in the party. It is time to put internal squabbles behind us, he said. But, David Levi in a bitter closing speech, accused the Shamir, Arens, and Sharon camps of ganging up on him and his supporters. In a detailed analysis of the results, Levi argued that he had received a vote of confidence from over 50 percent of the delegates. This is not borne out by the figures. It was a slap in the face for Levi to receive such a narrow majority over a political lightweight like Me'ir Kohen-Avidov, even though Kohen-Avidov was supported by Sharon, Arens, and Shamir. On the other hand, Moshe Arens' victory over Levi's protege, Yoram Aridor, was impressive. Aridor has always been a powerful figure in his own right and he was the incumbent chairman of the Secretariat.

On one thing David Levi was right: The camps in Herut are certainly not abolished, but the leadership's struggle has been put off, at least till the next Knesset elections. [end recording]

Tamir, PRC UN Envoy Discuss Peace Process

TA290700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Report from Washington by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The meeting between Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and the Chinese UN ambassador lasted for about 2 hours and was the first public contact between Israel and the PRC in more than 20 years. Toward the end of the meeting, the Chinese representatives asked their Israeli colleagues whether they had any objection to officially publicizing the meeting. Of course not, was the answer. In addition, the Chinese asked that political contacts continue openly and under UN auspices. So when I called the spokesman of the Chinese delegation in New York yesterday and introduced myself as a Voice of Israel reporter, there was no problem talking, and I even recorded the spokesman's remarks. He did not deviate from what was said by those who participated in the meeting with Avraham Tamir.

[Begin unidentified Chinese spokesman recording in English] You know, at their meeting the Chinese representatives stated the consistent and the principle stand of the Chinese Government for a comprehensive and a just settlement of the Middle East friction. They reiterated China's support for holding an international conference on the Middle East, under United Nations auspices, and made it clear that the Palestinian Liberation Organization is entitled to participate in the conference with all the other parties. [end recording]

There were no surprises during the meeting. The Chinese UN ambassador read statements in Chinese calling for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state; but he also confirmed the right of all peoples to live in peace in the Middle East. The novelty of the meeting lay in the publicity given to it and the readiness to continue meeting. Four Israelis participated in the meeting including Tamir: UN Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu; Avi Primor, Foreign Ministry assistant director general; and Yohanan Bein, the deputy UN ambassador. They were faced by four Chinese representatives with a female translator at their side.

The idea Tamir tried to sell was the convening of a preparatory committee for the international conference. What will come of this? If you ask Tamir, he is optimistic as always. In contrast, an Israeli diplomat at the UN concluded by saying: There is no story here; the Chinese representative presented the positions of his country, and in contrast Tamir presented his personal views.

Foreign Ministry Hopes for More PRC Contacts

TA290737 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by David Landau in Hong Kong, Walter Ruby at the United Nations, Mikha'el Zlotowski in Paris and news agencies]

[Excerpts] China's official announcement yesterday that a high-level meeting had taken place between Chinese and Israeli officials was greeted in Hong Kong as a significant development in the two countries' delicate relationship.

Diplomats and other China-watchers stressed that the XINHUA news agency report of the meeting was unprecedented. The meeting itself is believed not to be the first of its kind. [passage omitted]

The Chinese agency and the Israeli spokesman at the UN said the talks focused on Middle East peace efforts and a possible international peace conference.

"It was in a UN context rather than a bilateral context, and one of a series of meetings being held with members of the Security Council," Israeli UN spokesman Eyal Arad said.

The meeting was held at Israel's initiative and was arranged by the two countries' UN missions, he added.

Arad said although Israel was the seventh country to recognize the Beijing government following the 1949 communist revolution in China, the two countries had never established diplomatic relations.

Israel has shown growing interest in establishing diplomatic ties with China in recent years, and there have been reports of trade contracts through third countries. [passage omitted]

Government sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the Tamir-Li meeting indicated that China had not changed its traditional positions on Israel and the Middle East.

According to the preliminary report received last night in Jerusalem, it seems that the Chinese diplomat did not mention the possibility of establishing formal ties with Israel.

But Foreign Ministry officials said they hoped that the meeting would open the door for additional public contacts between the two countries. They added that the Chinese had made the meeting public because they did not want to be left behind the Soviets if talks on a conference take a practical turn. [passage omitted]

Mikha'el Zlotowksi adds from Paris:

Israeli scientists and sportsmen will be allowed to enter China, but only if they are invited within the framework of an internationally organized conference or competition.

This was announced here by Chinese Ambassador Zhou Jue, and was confirmed to *The Post* by a spokesman at the Chinese Embassy.

"Your researchers and sportsmen will be able to come over for international events, provided Israel is a member of the organizing international body," said the spokesman.

Foreign Ministry Statement Marks Peace With Egypt

TA261130 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 25 Mar 87

["Communicated by the Foreign Ministry spokesman" — GPO headline]

[Text] On 26 March 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a treaty of peace, following more than a year of negotiations that had begun when President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt journeyed to Jerusalem, in November 1977, in response to Israel's invitation to join it in direct negotiations for peace between the two countries.

The first such agreement between Israel and an Arab state, the Israel-Egypt peace treaty represents the first crack in the seemingly impregnable wall of Arab alienation and belligerency towards Israel that had produced three decades of intermittent terror and war.

The quest for peace has always been the central pillar of Israel's foreign policy. It constitutes the major goal of its national ethos. And it is a principle that unites all segments of Israel's society, regardless of political or social proclivities.

Nearly ten years ago, Israel's relentless call for peace found its first echo in the response of a courageous Arab leader. Today, a slowly evolving Israeli-Egyptian peace is living proof that there is a viable alternative to war.

The national unity government of Israel, elected in October 1984, has resolutely pressed forward and, as its leaders have pledged, will continue to press forward in an earnest effort to broaden and deepen the peace with Egypt, and to expand the peace process to Israel's remaining Arab neighbors.

The ultimate success of this effort depends on whether additional Arab governments in the region will see their way to joining it — in their own interests as in the interests of the war-weary peoples of the region as a whole. An overall Arab-Israeli peace undoubtedly would contribute to political stability, allow the countries involved to redirect massive military expenditures to constructive development and encourage regional cooperation for the benefit of all.

5 IDF Soldiers Wounded in Security Zone Clash

TA290531 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Three terrorists were killed and five Israeli soldiers wounded in a clash north of the security zone last night. The wounded soldiers were transferred to hospitals in northern Israel. Four were said to have been lightly injured and one has what is described as moderate injuries. According to the army spokesman, they were all hurt by ricochets and shrapnel during the gunfight that happened near the village of Al-Siddiqin. Al-Siddiqin and the nearby villages of Yatar and Kafrah are known as centers of terrorist activity by Hizballah and other Shi'ite groups, and our reporter says there have frequently been shooting incidents in the area. Military sources say a number of Katyusha rockets that had been fired at the Galilee were launched from that area. Helicopter gunships took part in the shooting during last night's clash, as other helicopters were called in to transfer the wounded Israeli soldiers to northern Israel.

Air Afrique Summit Concludes in Niger

Entente Council Heads Meet

AB262223 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The heads of state of the Entente Council member-states met yesterday evening outside the Air Afrique summit, under the chairmanship of their oldest colleague, Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The heads of state used the session to examine questions of common interest and agreed on ways to safeguard solidarity and unity within the Entente Council. In this regard, they studied the transit of goods and adopted measures likely to facilitate the movement of products within their respective countries. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of perfect understanding and renewed commitment to the ideals of peace, harmony, and progress, which have always motivated the Entente Council.

Final Communique Issued

AB271440 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Final communique issued in Niamey on 27 March at the end of the fifth extraordinary summit of the heads of state of Air Afrique member-countries on 26 and 27 March — read by Air Afrique Managing Director Auxence Ickonga]

[Text] The fifth meeting of the conference of heads of state of the multinational Air Afrique member-countries took place in Niamey in an extraordinary session on 26 and 27 March 1987 under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the People's Revolution Party of Benin, president and head of state of Benin, chairman of the National Executive Council, and current chairman [of the conference of heads of state of Air Afrique member-countries].

Present at the summit were His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Ivory Coast; His Excellency Gen Seyni Kountche, president of the Republic of Niger; His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo; His Excellency Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the People's Republic of Congo; His Excellency Captain Thomas Sankara, president of Burkina Faso; His Excellency Col Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, president of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; His Excellency Robert Sagna, minister of equipment, representing the head of state of the Republic of Senegal; His Excellency Pierre Gonifei-Gaibonanou, minister of transport and civil aviation, representing the CAR head of state; and His Excellency Abdoul Abderahman, minister of transport and civil aviation, representing the head of state of the Republic of Chad.

In an atmosphere of solidarity and mutual frankness, the participants discussed the various problems facing the common company. Those attending the conference reaffirmed their faith in the future of this fruitful instrument of international cooperation.

After having listened to the report of the managing director, and of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, the critical situation facing the company was examined. It was decided to assignHis Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Ivory Coast, the task of searching for and finding partners to reorganize the firm's management.

The participants reiterated the decisions made in Lome on 22 and 23 March 1985 and called for their application.

The heads of state and delegations thank the people of Niger, their government, and His Excellency Gen Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state of the Republic of Niger, for the particularly warm, fraternal, and authentically African welcome accorded them, and for all the arrangements made for the smooth running of the conference.

Issued in Niamey on 27 March 1987

ALGERIA

Finance Minister Cited on Cooperation With USSR

For a *Pravda* 23 March account of Algerian Minister of Finance A. Khellef's comments on Soviet-Algerian cooperation, see page H 3 of the Middle East & North Africa section of the 27 March Soviet Union *Daily Report*.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi: Terror Accusations By U.S. 'Lies'

LD271325 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar (JANA) The brother leader of the revolution has stated that all the accusations made by the U.S. Administration against the people of the Jamahiriyah with regard to terrorism were false and lies and that the abortive barbaric U.S.-NATO aggression against the Libyan Arab people was wrong and had no justification whatsoever.

In an interview with the NBC network recently, the brother leader said that mankind will remain exposed to real danger so long as there is a U.S. mentality that acts in this mad manner without any evidence. He affirmed that the Libyan Arab people, against whom the United States has committed aggression, has formed the impression that the United States is a mean country void of all conscience and ethics and that the Americans are mean barbarians who have not yet evolved to the stage of the contemporary man; and that they and the British belong to a species that lies between the monkey and the thinking man, not having yet evolved to the stage of the thinking man.

The brother leader affirmed during the interview that the question is not one of terrorism by us but rather terrorism which the United States and Zionism want to practice against us as Arabs to subdue us and force us to surrender our rights, homeland, and homes. He pointed out that Syria, too, is innocent of the charges of terrorism and that the future will show this.

The brother leader of the revolution reiterated that the Great Jamahiriyah was not responsible for so-called terrorism either before or after the U.S. aggression, pointing out in this regard that numerous acts of terrorism were committed last year, the year following the abortive barbaric U.S.-NATO aggression against the Libyan Arab people. During that year, Paris was set afire and witnessed unparalleled acts of violence; the British bases in Cyprus were subjected to an abominable attack which claimed scores of victims; and the United States itself was subjected to an attack by the world liberation forces which claimed U.S. victims everywhere. He added that the U.S. aircraft incident in Karachi was one of the tragedies of terrorism.

The brother leader declared that no Arab Libyan has committed any act of terrorism in the world and there should be a differentiation between the Libyan citizen and the Libyan state. He added: We are not responsible for every Libyan who commits an act on his own personal initiative.

The brother leader affirmed that it has never been a matter of terrorism, but rather one of a U.S. desire to colonize the Arab homeland. He added that we have no alternative other than to prepare ourselves for resistance, pointing out in this regard that the United States has destroyed our homes, committed aggression against us while we were asleep, and killed our children and families, and that this was aggression and terrorism. He asked: When the Americans and the Israelis manufactured nuclear bombs to annihilate the Arab nation and when the United States threatened us with its warships throughout the year, was this not terrorism and a threat to our freedom and our nation?

The brother leader touched upon the Gulf of Defiance — the Gulf of Sidra — and asserted: We banned not only America from carrying out military maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra, but all other foreign countries, incuding the Soviet Union, the PRC, Yugoslavia, Italy, and France. He pointed out that the world's countries and peoples support our right and have recognized that the Gulf of Sidra is part of Libyan Arab territory and Libyan Arab territorial waters.

The brother leader of the revolution told NBC that worldwide support for us, including support by the Soviet Union, following the abortive U.S.-NATO barbaric aggression against us is a recognition that the Gulf of Sidra, which we have baptized with blood, is part of Libyan Arab territory, pointing out the U.S. people's support for us and its condemnation of the U.S. Administration's aggression against us. He added that peoples all over the globe have supported us and through their public protests have condemned the U.S. aggression.

The leader stressed that America knows that the continuation of aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah will bring about serious consequences on the international scene and in the balance of power in the region.

He said that Libya might actually proclaim itself a communist country and join the Warsaw Pact; Russian missiles will then bedeployed along the Mediterranean shores, something which will upset the balance of power in the region and the world as a whole.

During this interview the leader reiterated the assertion that U.S. terrorism will beget even stronger terrorism and pointed out that we want peace [words indistinct].

The leader explained that America will not make another mistake and elect someone stupid and base like Reagan. When a new President is elected to lead America then, relations will improve between the Great Jamahiriyah and America. He added: We did not go to America and carry out aggression against it; we want to live peacefully on our land and in our homes.

The brother leader said that it is stupid for America to fight the Jamahiri orientation led by Libya, which will consolidate peace; the triumph of the Jamahiri phenomenon is a triumph which will consolidate peace in the world. The brother leader of the revolution touched upon the disgraceful level reached by Reagan and added that people like him epitomize U.S. world policy in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of Americans. It is an unreasonable policy, a childish policy.

During this interview the leader dealt with the Palestinian problem and asserted that it is the duty of America, as a superpower, to stand by the destitute Palestinian people, or at least to stay neutral.

In his reply to a question on the recent meetings of the secretaries of the Palestinian detachments, he explained that those meetings were aimed at the reunification of the Palestinian detachments as well as overcoming the crisis the Palestinian resistance is going though these days, a crisis brought about by the rift between the detachments and Yasir 'Arafat.

He said: I generally support the unity of the Palestinian resistance; my stance is firm on this, as is the Arab nation's stance. He stressed that supporting the Palestinian cause cannot be construed as terrorism, as America, Zionism, and their hirelings claim.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Messages to Arab Leaders

SUNA: Threatens To Quit Arab League

JN271201 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Mar (SUNA) — Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has threatened to take his country out of the Arab League unless Arab states support his position on the war with Chad, according to authoritative sources cited in the newspaper *Al-Ayyam* published here today. In a letter from the Libyan leader to the Sudanese leadership, Col al-Qadhdhafi maintained Chad is waging war not just against Libya but against pan-Arab security and that the war is an imperialist and colonialist plot.

The Sudanese leadership responded by reiterating Sudan's position calling for withdrawal of Libyan forces from Sudan and its neutrality in the dispute between Libya and Chad, the sources added.

The Libyan envoys who carried Al-Qadhdhafi's letter left for Sanaa, from where they will proceed to other Arab countries with letters of the same import as the one given to the Sudanese leadership.

WAKH: Calls for Arab Summit 'Soon'

JN300738 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0642 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Mar (WAKH) — Press reports said here today that the messages Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent to a number of Arab leaders during the past hours call for convening an Arab summit as soon as possible.

The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* cites Arab diplomatic sources in Rabat as saying that the Libyan leader confirmed his participation in this summit wherever it is held to discuss all topics of interest to the Arabs, including the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestine question. The messages also carry proposals for ending inter-Arab differences and embarking upon preparations for a unified Arab charter to prevent disputes among the Arab countries.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech Marks UK Evacuation Day

LD281309 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1144 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a rally held in Green Square, Tripoli, marking the 17th anniversary of the evacuation of British forces from Libya — live]

[Text] Brothers: Today we are marking the anniversary of the evacuation of British colonial forces from our Libyan Arab land, which remained after the Second World War to inherit the old Italian colony, and to add it to the properties of the British Empire. The victories achieved by the allies in WW II lured the British colonial state into believing it would own Libya and make it a British colony after (?ridding) it of fascist colonial forces during the war. Previous and latter colonialists ignored the fact that Arab Libya is for the Arab people and its sons, not for Italy or Britain.

Brothers, for the people who celebrate three times a year anniversaries marking the evacuation of foreign troops — Italian, British, and U.S. — from its territories, it is not becoming to accept again the presence of foreigners on their land. This is a reply to those who believe Libya might agree to having foreign bases on its land as a result of international conflict. The people who mark evacuation day three times a year will never agree to the setting up of a foreign military base on their territory. Brothers, it is not becoming of the people who are marking evacuation day to colonize other people's territory.

Our people have no alternative but to stand by the peoples who work for the expulsion of foreign troops from their lands. Our people, who have fought for the sake of freedom, must continue to fight for the sake of freedom everywhere.

To the colonialists who believe we have colonized Chad, we tell them, brothers, we are not colonizers, but rather the liberators of peoples, and strugglers for freedom on the side of the peoples. We cannot turn into a colonialist power. Today's artificial clamor by imperialist circles claiming there are hordes of Libyan forces penetrating Sudanese territories, and that there are columns of Libyan forces penetrating Nigerian territory, and that we have bases everywhere, is intended to distort the Jamahiriyah's role of liberator in the African Continent and the world.

The imperialists want to distort the revolution and accuse us of the imperialist acts and the domination of others they themselves are doing. Today, France, America, and the agent and imperialist circles are all trying to distort the noble, honorable role of the Libyan people in Chad. They are trying to show Libya as a colonialist power, occupying the lands of others, and sending troops everywhere. They said that Libya wanted to colonize Uganda. But here is Uganda, which with our help, has become free, and has become a Jamahiriyah. Today, there are no Libyan forces in Uganda. What we performed in Uganda was a liberatory duty. After that we returned.

Our forces entered Ndjamena in 1980 and placed Goukouni in power. The imperialists said that Libya will not leave Chad, and they wanted to depict the revolution, the liberation movement, as a colonialist movement.

Our forces then left Chad in accordance with a request from Goukouni, who was put in power by these forces. Those who accused Libya of not getting out of Chad were disgraced and shocked. Yesterday they said that Libya had arrested Goukouni Oueddei and that Goukouni Oueddei could not leave Libya; however, Goukouni Oueddei travels freely throughout the world, so they were again disgraced and shocked. They wanted and are still determined to depict this revolution as a terrorist and fascist movement. If Libya betrays the revolutionaries, arrests or kills Goukouni Oueddei, it would distort the revolutionary standpoint.

They want to distort the revolutionary standpoint, which attracts revolutionaries everywhere and attracts and glorifies the peoples. They said the Libyan forces occupied Chad to alienate the neighbor Chadian people from their neighbor Libya. They have no alternatives, either in time of peace or in time of war. They hope to depict the revolution in Libya as an expansionist and colonialist movement so Libya will receive the same accusations established for those colonialists.

Libya cannot be like France. France is now occupying Chad, and the confrontation with the occupation forces in Africa will continue with all possible means. The Libyan standpoint must be made clear. It has stood by the side of the revolution of the Chadian people, led by the Chadian National Liberation Front, Frolinat. As long as this movement continues fighting for the liberation of Chad, we will continue to stand by its side with all our force and with all firmness, without any hesitation whatsoever, however long the battles and the conflict, and whatever alliance there may be between the colonialists, reactionaries, and their agents. The confrontation is not a confrontation for a day, a month, or a year; it is an historical confrontation and conflict between the liberation movements and the forces of colonialism, between the masses and those who subjugate and colonize them.

We will continue to struggle alongside those who aspire to freedom and to fight for it alongside the people, from Chad to Uganda, to everywhere in the world, because the cause of freedom is unbreakable. We, brothers, do not change our firm, steadfast, honorable, and noble position, which reflects Libyan credibility and revolutionary credibility. This position is one of continued steadfastness and struggle beside the people of Chad until they achieve victory, and beside all peoples until they are triumphant. We will not hand Africa over to the French. Let them take their filthy hands off Africa and leave our continent, Africa. We are Africans and are therefore more entitled to Africa. We are the sons of Africa, and we are the revolution at the northern gate of Africa. We are the great state that confronts the aggression of the superpowers against northern Africa and the Mediterranean. We are the state to which the African peoples and the world's liberation movements turn. We are the headquarters of the world platform that leads all the liberation movements against imperialism, reaction, Zionism, racism, and fascism.

Libya is the world's leadership. Had Habre not been a lowly agent of France and the United States, had he been a patriot, he would have joined the revolutionary command in Libya under the banner of the world platform — either an agent under the banner of France and the United States, or a patriot fighting under the banner of the world platform, of which Libya is the headquarters.

We find it strange that the imperialists and colonialists, and their stooges in Africa fill the world with a lot of noise claiming Libyan forces are present everywhere.

Even when the CDR forces, the Revolutionary Democratic Council, the Government of National Unity, fight in Abeche and in the eastern front of Chad, they claim there are Libyan forces fighting there. They also believed that Sudan is full of Libyan forces. Such calumny and cowardice is fear of Libya. Libya has become a bogeyman, frightening the imperialists and the reactionaries. They said our columns were advancing across Nigerian territory, and this was untrue. They said Libya was still in Uganda, and this was not true.

It is enough honor for our small people, after the revolution — our people who were an Italian colony attached to Italy, and a field for shooting exercises for the American and British forces after the false independence — it is enough honor for Libya that it now fights the big powers of the world and is feared by America, France, and Britain, in Northern Ireland, Uganda, in the heart of Africa, in Central America, and everywhere. Libya has become a staunch and feared adversary. Libya has become the adversary feared by the forces that acted in the world as they pleased and who now find the Libyan resistance everywhere on the side of the peoples, on the side of the masses, and on the side of the fighters for freedom.

The battle is long, brothers, and the struggle will continue in this battle [crowd chants] by all means until freedom triumphs in Chad, in Africa, in the Arab homeland, until this nation becomes united, until this continent becomes free, and until the colonialists are defeated.

Brothers, even now they fear there are Libyan forces in countries in which we have no forces. They believe that the Libyan forces can be found on all mountains and in all valleys, and even in the Faya Largeau oasis.

Faya Largeau fell into the hands of Goukouni Oueddei on 10 March 1983. Habre was there on 10 March 1983, but with our help, Goukouni Oueddei attacked Faya Largeau on that date, setting Habre to flight and seizing the oasis. Since then, there have been no Libyan forces in the Faya Largeau oasis. With our help, Goukouni Oueddei reached Faya. Later in 1983, a rebellion took place at Faya among the (?Amol) and Goukouni group. After that, a coup took place at Cotonou, and a new national government was formed there opposed to the Goukouni government. The (?Amol) group, the Goukouni group, and the Acheikh ibn Oumar group exchanged positions in Chad from Fada, to Faya Largeau, to all these places. [crowd chants]

They believe Libya is still present in Faya Largeau, whereas Libya, since Goukouni entered it on 10 March 1983, knows nothing about the fate of the Faya Largeau oasis. It does know, however, the forces of the national government, then, under the leadership of Goukouni, took possession of that oasis. Later, there was the (?Amol) rebellion and then the coup in Cotonou. Libya does not know how the Faya Largeau oasis changed hands. The colonialists insist that Faya Largeau was colonized by Libya and was occupied by Libyan troops: This is a lie. We have supplied the friendly forces with tanks, transport vehicles, Grad missiles, and artillery. These are the arms we supplied to the friendly forces, from Fada to Faya Largeau.

The conflict in Chad is at its beginning; it has not been resolved and has not ended because it is a conflict between the Chadian people and their enemies. Chad has become a French and American colony, and the Chadian people cannot remain indifferent while their country is being occupied by the French and American forces. Libya cannot and should not remain indifferent to the people who are fighting to evict the French, American, and agent forces. The Chadian National Liberation Front, Frolinat, is still involved in its long and bitter struggle until Chad triumphs and until Chad becomes a free Jamahiriyah, and a people's state free from foreign bases. Libya is its strong support and Libya is its strong ally. We are allies of the Chadian people and their revolution, and we support the Chadian people and their revolution. The colonialists will lose in Chad, and the agents will also lose in Chad. The battle is long and will be terrible, and there will be many varied chapters.

Brothers, we say today that the colonialists in Chad cannot rest assured; the colonialists in Chad should not rest assured because we are behind the Chadian people until and after the liberation of Chad, and until the liberation of Africa. We are waging an historic battle against colonialism in the Arab homeland, in Palestine, in Africa, in Central America, and in Latin America. Peoples cannot be defeated; peoples backed by Libya and led by the Libyan revolution will triumph. The colonialists in Chad and elsewhere will be defeated. [crowd chants]

Brothers, France should not feel confident that it can remain in Chad. Thousands of members of the liberation army, supporting the government of national unity, will not lay down their weapons. And we are behind them until the liberation of Chad, until the French forces leave Chad, and until the free men of Chad assume authority in Ndjamena; until Achiekh ibn Oumar returns to Ndjamena. Brothers, the conflict will continue. [crowd chants]

It does not befit Libya — as accused of colonizing Chad — while celebrating the anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces from its soil, to colonize Chad, as is claimed. It does not befit Libya, which marks the anniversary of the evacuation of the foreign forces from its soil, to colonize Chad or other countries. Libya supports the people and the revolutionaries of Chad. This is a principled and a revolutionary attitude. If Libya wanted to colonize Chad it could enlist half a million Libyans and march on Chad and what lies beyond. Libya, which has thousands of tanks, is capable of sweeping through Chad and any other country. If Libya decides to declare war, it is capable within days of reaching the borders of Central Africa and of reaching the equator. If Libya accepts a challenge and decides on war, declaring general mobilization and moving thousands of tanks, backed by hundreds of aircraft, it is capable of sweeping through Chad, sweeping through all the French colonies in Africa, and of liberating Africa as far as the equator.

This should be clear. Brothers, we are not warmongers, however, and we do not want to change the African map or the world map. We support a nation fighting for freedom. Libya is capable of overrunning Chad with thousands of tanks if it decides to go to war. Neither French nor American forces can stand in its way, in the mountains, deserts, and jungles of Africa [cheers], but we tell them that we have not yet made such a decision. The Chadian liberation forces, supported by Libya, are capable of liberating Chad and of defeating the French and American imperialist, filthy invasion forces. However, brothers, if they opt for peace, opt for peace you should. [Koranic verse]

If the French forces leave peacefully, it would be what the Chadian people and we want. If Goukouni Oueddei and Acheikh ibn Oumar returned with their forces to Ndjamena, it would be what Libya wants. Libya does not want war for the sake of war, and Libya has not waged war in Chad and has not colonized Chad. If they opt for peace, opt for peace you should. It would be better for France and the Chadian people if France left Chad without resistance. If the French forces left Chad, confrontation in Africa between us and France, in Chad in particular, would come to an end. If Acheikh ibn Oumar and Goukouni Oueddei returned with their armed forces and obtained a share of power in Ndjamena, the confrontation between us and Ndjamena would come to an end.

They can have peace or war. Unless there is peace, there will be war, but a war by the Chadian liberation forces supported by Libya. Libya still has not decided to enter Chad. Libya could enter and overrun Chad: The world and Habre recall how in 1980 the Libyan forces stormed Chad, enabling Goukouni Oueddei to reach Ndjamena, where he became president. When Goukouni Oueddei asked us to leave, we left Abeche, Ndjamena, and all areas, and we returned to our country. We are not colonialists, and we do not want to colonize the lands of others. Habre and France know how we entered Ndjamena when we decided to in 1980. Our forces swept through oases, crossed mountains and deserts, and fought in the jungles all the way to Ndjamena, where they camped. We — nobody else — were the ones who withdrew those forces. Habre was ousted from Ndjamena, France left Ndjamena, and the Libyan forces seized Ndjamena and all Chad in 1980.

When the party that summoned us to fight on its side asked us to leave, we left Chad and left it to its people. Now French and U.S. forces have returned to Chad, and the Chadian people's struggle against this new colonialism has reawakened. We will support this struggle, the Chadian people's struggle. We support Chadian liberation forces working for the expulsion of France and America from Chad. If they want peace in Chad, let it be. If they want to avoid losses and defeat in Chad, they must leave; otherwise the conflict will be long and bitter for them. We will not retreat from a battle and will not retreat from the issue of freedom, whatever the price may be. Whatever the price, this nation is capable of expelling the colonialists and of imposing its presence.

We destroyed the crusader campaign last April; 170 aircraft were making a racket in the air. They thought they could subjugate the people, but they crashed, withdrew, or smashed into pieces — pilots and their aircraft — on the shores of Libya. We confronted the great campaign, which is unparalleled in history. We did not submit and were not affected by this campaign. The invasion launched by NATO failed to sway us from our principles. We still support armed Palestinian resistance, and make efforts to reunite it by escalating the Palestinian armed struggle against imperialism and racism. Brothers, we were not frightened by agentry and submission, which recognized the enemy and hoisted its flag over their heads in their Arab capital. This did not prevent us from continuing to reject the Zionist presence in Arab territory.

Yes, brothers, our morale is high, because this small nation, which was in the past a forgotten Italian colony, belonging to Italy and ruled by an Italian military governor just as a French military governor is now ruling Chad, was colonized exactly like that. Then Britain occupied it after WWII and Britain believed Libya would change from an Italian to a British colony. The British had free access to Libyan territories and airspace. British troops came from Britain, Europe, and Cyprus, and entered the Gulf of Bomba and Tubruq without even seeking permission from Libyan authorities. They carried out air, land, and naval exercises on Al-Butnan Plateau in Libyan territories. This was the case until 1969, until the revolution.

What kind of independence is it if Britain's forces carry out maneuvers without permission from its people? This is the situation we faced before the revolution and before the expulsion of the British forces from our territories on 28 March. This was the situation facing Libya before today.

Malta was under British colonialism. In 2 days time, the Maltese people celebrate the anniversary of the evacuation of British forces. Look at the transformations that have taken place since the revolution in Libya. Libya was under English and American colonialism, yet it is now celebrating the 17th anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces, and Malta, which was under English colonialism until the rise of the Libyan revolution, celebrates the evacuation of the British forces. Malta was under British colonialism, it was annexed to Britain and was under military rule.

Look at the transformations that have taken place in the Mediterranean. Lampedusa Island was under American colonialism; we hit it and attacked it last March. We told them Lampedusa will face attack again, again, and again if it remains an American base and is used for aggression against our soil. The aircraft that raided this city, Tripoli, were directed toward their targets from Lampedusa Island; the course was corrected from Lampedusa Island. Consequently, we destroyed the American fleet's telecommunications system on Lampedusa Island. We still declare that Lampedusa Island is in danger if it is an American base, and that Crete is also in danger if it is an American base.

Brothers, our morale is high. This old Italian colony, and new English colony, until 1969, has witnessed a revolutionary, liberating, internationalist phenomenon that has made Europe think about protecting NATO's right flank.

Just imagine; Italy complains. The Italian defense minister submitted a complaint to NATO telling them that NATO's right flank was threatened by Libya, and that the NATO defenses in southern Europe should be fortified. Just imagine; Libya, which was a colony annexed to Italy and which later became a British colony after the world war, was feared by Europe and by NATO — which is led by the United States — and they demand the fortification of southern Europe's defenses in the face of Libyan forces. Just imagine; simultaneously they say Libya has been threatening southern Europe. Reagan cries and says Libya has been threatening the threshold of his home in Central America; France says Libya has been threatening its colonies near the equator, and they say Libyan forces have been invading Sudan, Niger, and Chad, and have reached Uganda.

Why all this panic on the part of the colonialists? It is because they and their lackeys feel weak, feel their position is not sound. This is because they do not stand on the side of right. They know that the earth is shaking under their feet. Indeed, the ground in Chad is shaking and blazing under the feet of the American and French imperialists. I tell them: Either leave in peace or you know you will face a long and bitter confrontation in Chad. This is because we will side with the Chadian liberation forces. Any anti-Libyan regime in Ndjamena can rest assured it will never sleep comfortably, not for a single night. All imperialists on our borders should know we will face them with all the might we can muster.

We still have our conditions, however, for ending the confrontation: the return of Goukouni Oueddei and Acheikh ibn Oumar; participation in government in Ndjamena; the return of the Chadian liberation forces to Ndjamena; and the departure of French forces from Chad. This, brothers, is the solution. Otherwise it will be confrontation.

Brothers, I congratulate you on evacuation day, the day of the evacuation of the colonialist British forces that were on our soil from the Second World War until 1969, when the revolution erupted.

Brothers, the world has begun to hear that Libyan women fight beside the men. The world has begun to hear of something unusual beginning in Africa's northern gate, the heart of the Arab homeland, the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brothers, we will continue our heroic and historic struggle against the enemies of freedom. Freedom will triumph, the masses everywhere will triumph, brothers. March on, O great people, to unite the scattered nation, to create between the Ocean and the Gulf a force that will be feared. Brothers, march on, O great people, to move the stagnant Arab reality, march on to revolutionize the masses of the Arab nation, march on to unite the scattered people of our great nation. March on in the heroic struggle to confront the colonialist forces in Africa and Palestine. March on, brothers, march on -- this is our message in life; there is no value to a life, brothers, that is merely a number of years, a number of days. Only glories remain, brothers, only glories and credibility remain, brothers. Eternity for the martyrs.

Brothers, this is our message in life. We fear no one, we fear no one. Our voice is loud, our heads are high, and we are free men on our soil. We celebrate the festivals of freedom, the festival of evacuation on our soil. We will help the peoples struggling for the expulsion of foreign forces from their soil. March on, brothers. The confrontation will continue. March on, march on, brothers, while strengthening our capabilities. March forward by exploding the capabilities of power. March on, brothers, not to squander the great glories recorded by our fathers and grandfathers. March on, brothers. Confront all challenges. We will triumph, and the peoples will triumph with us in Chad, in the Arab homeland, in Africa, in Latin America, and Central America. March on, brothers.

We fear no one. We are strong, capable of inflicting defeat on our enemies, the enemies of people. We can move thousands of tanks, hundreds of aircraft, and half a million soldiers in any direction to decide any battle, brothers. But if they seek peace, do like them.

God is great. The struggle continues.

SUDAN

Interior Minister Tells Libyan Forces to Leave

JN281805 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Mar (SUNA) — Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has said that the Sudanese initiative to solve the Libyan-Chadian conflict has reached a dead end due to the Libyan forces' entry into Sudan, which has destabilized the situation on the borders with Libya and Chad.

In a statement today, the interior minister said this Libyan behavior is considered a violation of the homeland's sovereignty. He called on the Libyan forces still present on Sudanese territory to leave immediately. He added that the presence of these forces and their pursuit of their Chadian opponents have led to security concerns that have affected stability in the region and in Sudan in general.

Al-Mahdi Says Issue of Libyan Presence 'Closed'

JN291454 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 29 Mar (SUNA) — The issue of the Libyan forces' presence on the country's western borders has been resolved. The military and political problems which arose from this presence were resolved following recent contacts with the Libyan leadership.

This came in a report Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi submitted to the Council of Ministers at one of its regular sessions today. The prime minister added that this issue is now considered closed. Therefore, Al-Mahdi added, the issue will not be placed on the council's agenda as it previously indicated. [passage omitted on other topics]

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said before the Council of Ministers today that the issue of the Libyan forces' presence in the country's western borders has been resolved. The prime minister added that the military and political problems which arose from this presence were resolved following recent contacts with the Libyan leadership.

In another development, the prime minister will meet for the second time with 'Umar Ishkal, secretary for People's Congresses affairs and personal envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the next 2 days when he returns from his current tour, which includes, besides Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and the two Yemens. During these visits, the Libyan envoy will convey messages from Al- Qadhdhafi to the leaders of these states.

Last week, the Libyan envoy visited Sudan, where he met with senior state officials and conveyed messages to them from the Libyan leader.

The prime minister will make a statement before the Constituent Assembly tomorrow morning on the latest developments of the situation in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

Last week in the Constituent Assembly, Al-Mahdi condemned the presence in Sudan of Libyan forces which entered Sudan with relief convoys. The number of the Libyan forces was estimated to be between 700 and 1,000 troops. At the time, the prime minister said that the competent authorities would deal with the situation in a manner that would preserve the national security and territorial integrity of the country and that the political and diplomatic dimensions of the issue would be explained to and placed before the Council of Ministers.

Trade Minister, Delegation Hold Talks in Turkey

For coverage of Trade Minister Yusuf Abu Harirah's visit to Turkey as head of the Sudanese delegation in the second round of meetings of the Turkish-Sudanese joint economic committee, including his meeting with Turkish State Minister Celal Guzel, Public Works and Housing Minister Safa Giray, and Industry and Commerce Minister Cahit Aral, see the Turkey section of the 27 March Western Europe *Daily Report*.

TUNISIA

Press Told Reasons for Break With Iran

LD271811 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] A press conference was held at the Information Ministry this morning. It was attended by a large number of local and foreign reporters accredited to Tunisia. During the conference a series of explanations and statements were offered regarding recent moves in the national arena by groups with Khomeynite leanings and the reasons behind Tunisia's severance of diplomatic relations with Iran.

It was recalled in this connection that in recent years the Tunisian authorities have demonstrated tolerance toward groups known as the Islamic groups on the grounds that their activities were confined to spreading religious education, preaching good and shunning evil, and upholding Islam's righteous teachings without distortion or falsification and without exploitation of religion for ideological and political purposes.

However, it has now been established that this took a serious turn, which began secretly at first and then gradually surfaced and became almost open activity. It soon intensified and concentrated on a call for direct confrontation with the regime by resorting to violence with the aim of creating an explosive situation in the country. The purely political nature of these activities carried out under the cover of religion became evident beyond any shadow of doubt.

So, these groups sought to use the university and houses of God as fields for their activity with the intention of promoting anarchy. These groups, set up in terrorist units, advocate anarchy and ideological indoctrination through Iranian-style revolutionary cells in Tunisia to work, through so-called revolutionary violence, for the overthrow of the existing regime founded on civil laws and for the collapse of the society of tolerance to replace it with a fundamentalist regime based on the Shari'a. Followers are lured to the groups and then assigned mosques and secondary and higher education institutes. Polarization is achieved by infiltrating youth, social, and sports organizations. The female element is considered a favorite area for expansion. Those selected are subjected gradually to a religious and psychological preparation ultimately reaching the point of brainwashing. Elements who distinguish themselves by regular attendance and willingness are given special attention to prepare them for becoming movement members supporting the active units already formed and indoctrinated ideologically, politically, and militarily. At some other stage guerrilla warfare is carried out in the cities and mountains awaiting the right opportunities such as social disturbances, economic difficulties, or anything else to pounce on the regime to wear it down and pave the way for its collapse, like what happened in Iran.

Active elements of these groups have robbed financial establishments. Furthermore, followers regularly give a share of their wages, sometimes up to 50 percent, to the organization to enable it to pay current expenses on such things as printing and video equipment and photocopying machines, and buying people's consciences.

In an attempt to organize their activity and ensure secrecy, these groups obtained some electronic equipment and used a code.

To these terrorist groups, anyone who is not with them is against them and therefore a target of their violence, which takes various forms and manifestations. In addition to the disciplinary campaigns they launch in the university, from time to time they form ad hoc courts to mete out punishment to those whom they consider to be their enemies or, at least, not enthusiastic about their cause. That is how many male and female students became the victims of their physical and moral violence. Most of the university students were constantly intimidated by this group.

As regards Tunisia's severance of its diplomatic relations with Iran, the practices of the Iranian Embassy in Tunis were exposed. It was a link between the Iranian revolution and the members of the Khomeynite movement in Tunisia. It was confirmed beyond any doubt that the embassy became an active center for exporting the Iranian revolution and for the recruitment of religious fanatics to spread Khomeyni ideas and slogans in Tunisia. The Iranian interest began with reports to Tehran on our country's internal affairs and foreign relations giving the illusory impression in its analysis that the situation in Tunisia is ripe for a Khomeyni-style revolution. The Iranian authorities, in an attempt to achieve that objective, selected a certain Ahmad al-Kan'ani for the post of embassy charge d'affaires in Tunis. He was an active member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard in Khorasan.

The Iranian Embassy carried out propaganda activities consisting in particular of the distribution of Arabic versions of Iranian books, papers, and magazines, glorifying the Shi'ite faith and urging people to adopt it.

Very often these publications tendentiously and provocatively criticized the domestic situation in Tunisia and were smuggled to the ranks of worshippers in mosques to win supporters and lure them with money. The very same embassy distributed video tapes showing how the Khomeyni revolution was carried out and the methods used by demonstrators. It also, without the knowledge of the Tunisian authorities, selected some Tunisians for studies in Iran and sent some sympathizers to Iran to participate in various demonstrations.

Iran never stopped providing financial aid for the Khomeynite movement, in Tunisia or abroad. The collusion between the Iranian revolution and the Khomeynite movement has transcended national boundaries to Tunisian groups abroad. Many members of these groups were trained in several Iranian cities, especially Qom. One member of the terrorist group recently detained in France for possession of explosives is Fu'ad 'Ali Salih, known for his close religious links with the religious extremists in Tunisia and for his pro-Hizballah Party principles and methods. It has transpired that he used to go to the Iranian Embassy in Paris with a view to carrying out activities for the Khomeyni regime and that he received a monthly salary from the Iranian Embassy in return for these activities.

It has also become clear that the slogans used in the books and leaflets distributed by the Iranian Embassy in Tunis appeared openly on the university campus during the recent student disturbances.

So, the close link between this Shi'ite movement and the extremist religious trends in the university is crystal clear. For all these reasons, the Tunisian Government decided to break off its diplomatic relations with Iran, whose embassy departed from its normal duties and violated the diplomatic rules and tradition, becoming a base form which emanated acts harmful to the general order in the country. It is also clear that this mission carried out certain activities aimed at creating ideological confusion and sowing anarchy and ideological sedition. The Iranian Embassy instructed some Tunisian pilgrims to participate, in Mecca or Medina, in pro-Iranian demonstrations. It also used Tunisians to gather information about some of Tunisia's fraternal and friendly states.

CHAD

Faya-Largeau Falls to FANT, Fighting Continues

FANT Reports Victory

AB271914 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1854 GMT 27 Mar 87

[FANT High Command Communique No 59 issued in Ndjamena on 27 March following the fall of Faya-Largeau]

[Text] After the fall of the gigantic enemy base at Ouadi Doum, none of the other enemy facilities can resist the shattering attacks of the valiant FANT. Today, 27 March 1987, at 1200 local time [1100 GMT], Faya-Largeau, the capital of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region, the second major enemy (?base) established on Chadian soil, after Ouadi Doum, fell into the full control of the glorious and irresistible FANT. The enemy, who [words indistinct], had no choice but to run as fast as he could, abandoning many Chadians forcibly conscripted into the notorious Islamic Legion. These Chadians have joined the government forces en masse. As mopping up operations are still in progress, the tally of this action will be announced to you later.

Furthermore, on the same day, the Libyan Air Force has been carrying out intense and savage bombings of Zouar to cover the Libyan troops fleeing in disarray.

French Sources Confirm Fall

AB272005 Paris AFP in French 1948 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, 27 Mar (AFP) — The seizure of the town of Faya-Largeau by Chadian government forces was confirmed Friday evening in Paris by reliable French sources.

Details of the operation had not as yet been given, but according to these sources, the Libyans have apparently evacuated the palm grove, which had virtually been surrounded by President Hissein Habre's troops since Wednesday.

The Libyans took advantage of the sandstorm that has been blowing over Chad since Wednesday to retreat.

Retreating Libyans Intercepted

AB281507 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1403 GMT 28 Mar 87

[FANT High Command Communique No 60 issued in Ndjamena on 28 March]

[Text] The column of Libyan troops that fled Faya-Largeau due to its inability to stand up to the irresistible freedom fighters has been intercepted [words indistinct] to the southwest of Zouar, where it has suffered a crushing defeat. Here is the tally of that clash:

Enemy side: (?73) Libyans killed [words indistinct], 14 taken prisoner.

Equipment captured: six Toyotas equipped with 14.5-mm guns, and five Toyota troop transports.

Equipment destroyed: (?two) T-55 tanks, (?three) BMP tanks, [as heard] (?five Cascavel AML) [words indistinct].

Moreover, Libyan planes bombed Ouadi Doum (?yesterday). These bombings, which (?continued) [words indistinct] this morning on Ouadi Doum and Faya-Largeau largely affected innocent civilians.

88 Libyans Killed

AB281733 Paris AFP in French 1615 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 Mar (AFP) — The Chadian Army High Command announced this afternoon that 88 Libyan soldiers were killed on Friday, 28 March, northeast of Zouar in the Tibesti Mountains, and 14 others were taken prisoner.

The High Command, which stated that heavy weapons were captured or destroyed during this fighting, added that the clashes involved Libyan troops trying to flee Faya-Largeau, the large palm grove in northern Chad recaptured yesterday by Chadian government forces.

During this clash, the Chadians captured weapons and equipment, including six Toyota vehicles equipped with 14.5-mm heavy machine guns, and five Toyota troop transport vehicles. It destroyed two T-55 Soviet-made tanks, three BMP multiple rocket launchers, and five Brazilian-made Cascavel armored cars.

Bardai Radio Exhorts Forces

AB282055 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1818 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Valiant fighters of the National Liberation Army [ANL], irresistible soldiers, and GUNT commandos: You have just achieved resounding victories over the French-American-Zairian enemy forces. It is in these terms that the GUNT addressed you in one of its military communiques.

You are valiant and irresistible. You have demonstrated it repeatedly in battle. You are equal to the task before you. Neither your French-American enemies nor the Zairian-Senegalese group will dampen your fervor and determination to defend the Chadian people. The loss of a battle is never synonymous with the loss of the war. On that point, too, history will never deny the acts of bravery and (?pure) [word indistinct] that you have shown on the various war fronts in 1983 and at this very moment. The cause you are defending — the liberation of the Chadian people from French-American imperialism on one hand and from Zairian-Senegalese neocolonialism on the other — is a pledge of your conviction in the cause of our fight.

The entire Chadian people, martyrs to the bloody Ndjamena forces, are confident that you will (?confront and) break the chains of the Afro-European coalition that has completely upset your parents by reducing their sons to the state of slaves.

On the threshold of the 21st century, when all nations are defending their right to freedom and the democracy of peoples, the Chadian people are gagged, victimized every day, unable to satisfy their most basic needs, and forced to fill the pockets of imperialist pyromaniacs.

Valiant fighters and irresistible ANL commandos, only the (?flames) of your weapons can revive the mortified hearts of the mourning population cringing under the dictatorial and bloody regime of the Ndjamena clique. Pursue the fight for freedom unrelentingly, for final victory is near!

Bardai Notes Withdrawal

AB292046 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] On the diplomatic level, the meeting in Algiers between a FAN [Northern Armed Forces] delegation and that of former President Goukouni Oueddei is worth mentioning. At once, the Ndjamena delegation, headed by (Brahim Ibnou), presented the conditions for an immediate rallying of [words indistinct].

1. [passage indistinct]

2. The OAU must not be an observer in their negotiations.

3. The FAN can negotiate only with the FAP [Patriotic Armed Forces]; the other factions are excluded.

For its part, the delegation of former GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei presented the following conditions:

1. The negotiations must take place in the presence of OAU representatives and with the participation of other factions.

On the other hand, Adoli Akou and Kailan have refused to return to Ndjamena. They revealed that they were forced to sign the military agreement. The failure of Adoli Akou and Kailan to return to Ndjamena explains the untenable situation there.

Finally, it is worth noting that for this part, (Abdou Kabril) [words indistinct] abroad. As you can see, the positions of both sides reflect an impasse. [Words indistinct] the statements of French President Francois Mitterrand in Algiers.

As for the military situation, it worth emphasizing that the evacuation of the National Liberation Army [ANL] from Faya-Largeau is an orderly tactical withdrawal. [Words indistinct] will have the least opportunity to get out safely.

Whatever the situation, the days and weeks to come will give the response to the situation thus created. As can be seen, the fighting and militant forces of the ANL are [words indistinct]. On the contrary, with the clarification of the situation in the field, the war will resume in other forms and with new methods and tactics until final victory over French-American imperialism and its local puppets. The war is not yet over. The struggling forces have not yet said their last word. Furthermore, they can also count on the support of friendly progressive countries, headed by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During a popular meeting to mark the anniversary of the departure of the British [word indistinct], Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, pledged to back the Chadian revolutionary forces (?struggling to kick the French out of Chad).

The leader of the revolution, however, stressed that his country pursues a peaceful policy with the return of GUNT President Acheikh ibn Oumar and former President Goukouni Oueddei to Ndjamena and their effective participation in the government [words indistinct] in Bardai.

In the absence of that, he added, the war will continue until the return of President Acheikh ibn Oumar and the former GUNT president to Ndjamena.

Still on the military situation, in the east, the ANL forces [words indistinct].

Bardai on Ndjamena-Yaounde Border Tension

AB291857 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Dear listeners: This is our third entertainment program. Since their arrival in Ndjamena, the FAN [Northern Armed Forces] has continued to increase its acts of provocation against neighboring countries. Observers still remember the border incidents with Nigeria in the [name indistinct] region and recently, again, the incursion of FAN troops into Sudan.

Also, relations between Cameroon and the FAN are not cordial as one might imagine. In fact, according to our permanent correspondent, there is a high level of tension between the Cameroonian Government and Ndjamena. Cameroon has dispatched troops from Yaounde and massed them along the border with Chad.

For its part, Ndjamena accuses the Cameroonian Government of abetting saboteurs who commit crimes.

Government To Free 103 FAP Members 29 March

AB290803 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] An event probably linked with developments in the northern part of our country, where FANT and FAP [People's Armed Forces] are fighting side by side against Libyan aggressors, is the release of prisoners. In fact, 103 prisoners, all former members of the FAP will be released today at 0830 at the Ndjamena Central Police Station. Mr Ngargos, secretary of state for interior and territorial administration, will preside over the ceremony.

In the absence of any official statement, it can be deduced that this release of prisoners is the logical outcome of the military agreements recently signed between the Chadian Government and the chief of staff of the National Liberation Army.

Libyan Group Sends Support Message to Habre

AB281828 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Positive reaction to the Chad-Libya conflict does not come from within Chad alone. The Libyan people, who continue to pay dearly for Al-Qadhdhafi's adventurism, are happy about the victory of the Chadian people, which also forebodes the end of [words indistinct] regime. Proof of this is a message addressed to His Excellency El-Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic and head of state, by the Libyan National Salvation Front [Front National Pour le Salut de la Libye — FNSL], which reads:

At a time when we are closely following the resounding victories of FANT in its historic and just fight to free the whole of Chad from Al-Qadhdhafi's military presence, I am particularly happy to express, on behalf of all members of the FNSL and myself, condemnation of this open aggression by Al-Qadhdhafi against the brotherly people of Chad, their national sovereignty, and their territorial integrity. We equally condemn the way in which Al-Qadhdhafi has plunged the sons of Libya and their armed forces into a futile war of aggression against our brothers and neighbors in Chad, a conflict in which the Libyan people [words indistinct] and tragedy.

We express our total desire to stand by you and by the brotherly people of Chad in their just and legitimate fight to lead a free, dignified, and noble life on their soil.

We express to you and the people of Chad our heartiest congratulations for the return of Ouadi Doum to the great Chadian family after the resounding victory of FANT over Al-Qadhdhafi's forces of oppression and aggression.

We pray for the day when all Chadian territory will return to the Chadians and the day when our forces will turn against the oppressor Al-Qadhdhafi, who arbitrarily rules the Libyan people with an iron hand and through the force of arms — a time when relations between Libyans and Chadians will be as they were in the past — marked by fraternity and (?prosperity).

May God protect the brotherly people of Chad. His protection has led you to this victory.

Signed: Gueth 'Abd al-Majid Sayif al-Nasir, FNSL deputy secretary general

As can be seen, it is not only the Chadian people who suffer from Libyan adventurism; this message testifies to that.

BENIN

PRC Envoy Cited on Bilateral Relations

AB282100 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
0800 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] His Excellency Zhu Xiansong, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to Benin, held a news conference yesterday lasting more than 2 hours with the national press at the Chinese Embassy. Comrade Mamadou Allagbada, director of information and propaganda, defined the context within which the news conference was held. Comrade Allagbada said that after President Mathieu Kerekou's tour of East Europe and Asia, it was decided that the national press would meet the ambassadors of countries in those regions to determine the impact that journey had on the development of our relations.

Before the news conference actually began, the Chinese ambassador delivered an enlightening lecture giving an overview of political and economic conditions in his country. He said the situation there is characterized by reform, an opening to the outside world, and internal economic reactivation without a retreat to bourgeois liberalism. This new policy has made it possible to achieve great success in all fields of activity and has helped raise the people's standard of living.

The ambassador then said President Kerekou's visit to China from 12 to 19 December was crowned with success. He noted that the discussions between the leaders of the two countries contributed to a deeper knowledge of each other and the strengthening of our friendship.

This general introduction was followed by the news conference itself. Naturally, the questions centered on bilateral cooperation and the major reforms envisaged by CPC's new policy. Several agreements were signed during President Mathieu Kerekou's last trip to China, and were, as Mr Zhu Xiansong stressed, designed to bolster bilateral coopration. In the main, these accords cover the construction of a cotton products complex in Lokossa, the reestablishment of two agricultural projects in Zou and Mono Provinces, and road resurfacing programs.

The questions and answers were followed by a film tracing China's great successes in agricultural and steel production.

BURKINA FASO

Border Demarcation Agreement Signed With Niger

AB281915 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] An agreement was signed this morning at the office of the minister of external relations and cooperation. An accord and a protocol were signed between the Government of the Republic of Niger and the Burkinabe Government relating to the demarcation of our border. Our country was represented by Comrade Leandre Bassolet, minister of external relations and cooperation. His Excellency Sani Bako, Niger foreign minister, was there on behalf of his country.

Comrade Leandre Bassolet emphasized that this action was a positive step that will serve history, for in Burkina Faso the notion of borders is far different from that of barriers. The signing of this agreement and protocol between our country and Niger is simply a reflection of the ties of friendship, fraternity, and good neighborliness that have always existed between our two peoples. [passage omitted]

Meeting Held With Nicaraguan Delegation

AB281648 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
1300 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] A delegation from our country and a visiting Nicaraguan group have held a working meeting. The Burkinabe team was led by Comrade Leandre Bassolet [minister of external affairs and cooperation], who stressed that the trip by our Nicaraguan friends is proof of the deep friendship between our two revolutions.

The head of the Nicaraguan delegation expressed satisfaction with his trip to Burkina Faso. The members of the group also conveyed greetings to their Burkinabe brothers and sisters from the Nicaraguan people and their president.

GHANA

Judicial Assistance Treaty Signed With GDR

AB271035 Accra Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Ghana and the GDR yesterday signed a treaty on judicial assistance in civil, family, and criminal matters. The treaty was initialed by the attorney general and secretary for justice, Mr G.E.K. Aikins, and the visiting GDR minister for justice and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mr Hans-Joachim Heusinger.

Under the treaty, judicial authorities of both countries shall grant each other judicial assistance in civil and family matters. This assistance includes the service of documents and the execution of requests for taking evidence of witnesses and other parties to proceedings. The treaty also enables either contracting party to undertake to prosecute nationals of the contracting parties in the courts of the former, under its domestic laws.

On extradition, the contracting states would undertake to surrender to each other any person staying in their respective territories who has committed offences or has been convicted and sentenced in the other state.

Speaking at the function, Mr Aikins noted that the signing of the treaty is a further step in the judicial cooperation which already exists between the two countries. He said he is pleased with discussions so far with the delegation which dealt with economic and legal issues, and hoped they would benefit the peoples of the two countries. Mr Aikins called for the promotion of further ties between Ghana and the GDR.

Replying, Mr Heusinger noted that the treaty is an expression of the interest and concern of the two countries towards international peace and security, and against colonialism, oppression, and all forms of racial discrimination. Mr Heusinger expressed his country's readiness to implement the treaty which he believes will help deepen the bonds of friendship between the GDR and Ghana.

Mr Aikins later presented a stool to Mr Heusinger. The delegation leaves for home today.

GUINEA

French African Affairs Adviser Arrives

AB260914 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Jacques Foccart, adviser to the French prime minister on African affairs, arrived in our country this afternoon. His visit will last until 27 March. He was met on arrival at Conakry-Gbessia International Airport by Major Kerfalla Camara, minister permanent secretary of the CMRN; Ibrahima Sory Diaby, secretary of state for security; and Alhassane Conde, secretary of state for decentralization. Also present were the French ambassador to our country and several French and Guinean personalities. The French adviser spoke to Aissatou Bela Diallo and Boubacar Yacine Diallo on the purpose of his trip.

[Begin recording] [Foccart] I have been sent by the prime minister, Jacques Chirac, to President Lansana Conte. I will be meeting the president, to whom I will deliver a written and a verbal message from the French prime minister. I will have a chance to review with members of the government and the French ambassador questions concerning cooperation and bilateral relations, which I know to be good. France is ready to help with the recovery program adopted by the president, who is doing a remarkably good job of implementing it. [passage omitted]

[Yacine Diallo] Mr Adviser, there has been speculation about French military assistance to Africa. It has gone so far that some quarters have termed it a reconquest. What is the situation?

[Foccart] I do not quite agree with that. Essentially, they are referring to Chad. At the request of the Chadian Government led by President Hissein Habre, France came to the Chadian Army's aid. It is not involved in the fighting but gives assistance to the Chadian Army by virtue of a military cooperation agreement signed with that country. There is no question of a reconquest. We are only giving assistance to help defend Chad's territory at its own request. We hope this aid will help Chad recover all its land [words indistinct] [passage omitted] [end recording]

The French adviser will be received by the president, Gen Lansana Conte, to whom he will deliver a message from Jacques Chirac. He will also hold talks with the ministers of foreign affairs, plan and international cooperation, and economy and finance. In addition, the French statesman's stay will include meetings with some heads of enterprises and representatives of the French community in Guinea.

Meets With Conte, Ministers

AB281139 Conakry Domestic Service in French
0645 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Jacques Foccart, adviser to the French prime minister on African and Malagasy affairs, was received yesterday by Head of State General Lansana Conte. Their discussions basically centered on bilateral cooperation. The two men also examined burning issues affecting the African Continent, such as Chad, and other topical international subjects. French assistance to Guinea was studied as well. The French politician, who is expected to leave Conakry today, spoke yesterday with the Guinean ministers of foreign affairs, plan and international cooperation, and economy and finance. Boubacar Yasine Diallo, what were the results of these discussions?

[Diallo] During his talks with Guinean officials, Foccart paid tribute to the clear, open-door policy adopted by the CMRN. Similarly, Foccart confirmed France's willingness to pursue bilateral cooperation. He expressed appreciation for the indigenous development efforts of the Guinean people, which seek to revitalize all sectors of their national life. The French prime minister's adviser said it is important to identify priorities and explore the best methods for economic and social assistance.

Foccart discussed the Chad-Libya conflict and the Palestinian situation with Foreign Minister Major Jean Traore. We are giving technical assistance to Chad at the request of Hissein Habre's government and in accordance with military agreements between Paris and Ndjamena, Foccart explained. Foccart and Edouard Benjamin, minister of plan and international cooperation, reviewed the various projects to which France contributes or intends to contribute. Benjamin asked France to invest in priority areas, including the establishment of viable infrastructures, rural development, health, education, and mines. According to the minister of plan, the total cost of this investment program may reach $670 million for the period 1987-1989. Benjamin also stressed the importance the Guinean Government attaches to the renovation of primary and secondary road networks and feeder roads. The value of this program is estimated at $220 million. Foccart was greatly moved by the problems raised and gave his government's assurance to meet, in a truly honest manner, as he put it, the requests of our Guinean partners.

As for the minister of finance and economy, he expressed hope that trade between Paris and Conakry would multiply. In short, Foccart discussed worthy and loyal cooperation with several Guinean officials. The French prime minister's adviser on African and Malagasy affairs will leave Conakry tomorrow morning. [as heard]

Concludes Visit, Departs

AB281925 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Jacques Foccart, adviser to the French prime minister, left Conakry early this afternoon for Paris following a 72-hour visit to the Republic of Guinea. During his trip to Guinea, Mr Foccart held discussions with many Guinean officials, including the head of state, General Lansana Conte, on the future of bilateral cooperation. Listen to his assessment of his visit to our country, which he made to our correspondent, Boubacar Yassine Diallo.

[Begin Foccart recording] [passage omitted] Of course, I was particularly pleased and satisfied with the talks I held with President Lansana Conte. He and I were able to discuss all the problems involving our two countries. I noted that bilateral relations were very good and there was the same desire on both sides to maintain and even strengthen them, if possible.

I also had the opportunity to meet with my fellow countrymen who are presently here taking part in the recovery efforts being made in your country with great courage, for you face a difficult situation thanks to a generally adverse economic climate. Besides, it is a world crisis. This situation is particularly difficult in Guinea, as the efforts to be made are considerable.

I leave here very confident about the future of Guinea, where there has been significant improvement as far as economic activity is concerned. I am quite confident about Guinea's future, as well as the common future of our two nations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

LIBERIA

Doe Continues Personnel Reorganization

Minister, Cabinet Chief Named

AB271838 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has made two additional appointments in government. Dr Peter Naigoh becomes acting minister of state without portfolio, and former Information Minister Dr Momolu Getaweh is acting director of the cabinet.

LBS [Liberia Broadcasting System], quoting an Executive Mansion release, said these appointments are pending confirmation by the Senate.

16 Ministers, Officials Confirmed

AB280758 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Sixteen [as heard] officials recently appointed by President Samuel Kanyon Doe have now been officially confirmed by the Liberian Senate to their posts. According to Press Secretary Patrick Kummey, those confirmed include: Mr John G. Bestman, minister of finance; Mr Rudolph Johnson, minister of planning and economic affairs; Emmanuel O. Gardiner, director of the budget; Alicia Johnson-Francis, managing director Liberia Produce Marketing Corporation, LMPC; Thomas D. Hansen, deputy minister of finance for expenditure; (George Bollo), chairman, National Investment Commission.

Others are Mr Francis L.M. Horton, deputy governor, National Bank of Liberia; David Farahat, deputy minister of finance for administration; Trohoe Kparghai, adviser to the president on national and international affairs; Mr Gbai M. Gbala, managing director Liberia Free Zone Authority, LIFZA; Samuel D. Brownell, minister of rural development; Isaac G. Wiles, deputy minister of justice for legal affairs; (William Bow), deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Francis Boma, deputy managing director, National Insurance Corporation of Liberia.

Meanwhile, the five remaining nominees, who are all out of the country on official duties, are yet to appear before the Senate committee on executives for their confirmation. They include Emmanuel Bowier, minister of information; Paul Jeffy, governor, National Bank of Liberia; Robert Tubman, minister of labor; Emmanuel Sure II, minister of commerce, industry and transportation; and Oscar Quiah, managing director, Liberia Telecommunications Corporation.

MALI

CPSU Delegation Ends Visit; Meets Press

AB261725 Bamako Domestic Service in French
1500 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The CPSU delegation held a news conference this morning at the Cultural Hall to mark the end of its 1-week visit to Mali. The conference, which was chaired by Youssoufou Sogoba on behalf of the secretary for information and culture of the Central Executive Bureau, gave the leader of the Soviet delegation the opportunity to discuss the problem of disarmament and relations between Mali and the USSR before the national and international press.

On disarmament, the Soviet delegation head, Yevgeniy Yeliseyev, emphasized recent Soviet initiatives. Yeliseyev said the USSR was prepared to help achieve lasting peace in the world, with the first steps being the signing of an agreement between the superpowers, a moratorium on nuclear tests, and, above all else, the outright elimination of nuclear arms. The speaker said these measures will help reduce tension in the world and make it possible to invest the financial resources thereby saved in the economic and social development of the most impoverished nations.

On relations between Mali and the USSR, the speaker referred to the importance of joint management of firms and to his country's aid to the Niger office. This aid, he said, will make it possible to develop 200,000 hectares of arable land.

Finally the speaker, who is about to leave our country, expressed hope for the success of the second extraordinary congress of the party, which opens on Saturday.

NIGERIA

Daily Religious Worship Banned in Anambra

AB290917 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] In Anambra State, daily religious preachings on radio and television have been banned. Similarly, daily religious worship in churches and mosques have been banned except on Sundays for Christians and Fridays for Muslims.

An official statement in Enugu explained that the action was in the interest of peaceful coexistence among the people. Governor Emeka Emeruah had earlier banned all forms of open-air religious preachings in the state. Similar measures have been taken by many other states following the recent violent disturbances in parts of the country.

School Closed in Plateau After Disturbances

AB300828 Lagos Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The school of preliminary studies, Keffi, Plateau State, has been closed down following disturbances in the institution. Announcing this, the principal of the school, Mr Peter Angow, said that the students had boycotted lectures since last week to back up their demands for the release of union files which were with the school authorities. Mr Angow said the students were also asking for the publication of names of beneficiaries of the state scholarship award this year, adding that the school was already working toward meeting their demands when they embarked on the boycott action.

He explained that the closure was necessary to avoid the escalation of violence because some of the students had begun to deflate the tires of vehicles of members of staff and of the school while blocking the entrance to the premises. According to the principal, the students defied an order by the state governor to go back to classes.

Sokoto Police Command Warns 'Rumormongers'

AB271800 Kaduna Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Rumormongers in Sokoto State have been advised to desist forthwith in their own interest. A statement by the state police command said some unscrupulous persons have been spreading false rumors that a religious crisis was imminent in the area. The command's first man, Raymond Dambe, warned that anybody caught spreading such baseless and unfounded rumors would be dealt with. He reassured the public that there was no cause for alarm and that adequate security measures were on to maintain peaceful atmosphere.

All post-primary institutions in the state were closed last week following what the commissioner for education, Alhaji Umoru Suru, said was to prevent a spillover effect of the disturbances in neighboring states. The institutions are expected to open on Monday.

Justice Minister on Possible Soviet Assistance

AB252139 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of justice and attorney general, Prince Bola Ajibola, said in Lagos today that Nigeria would appreciate Soviet assistance in acquiring the technology for food storage and preservation. He told the Soviet ambassador, Mr Yuriy Kuplyakov, who paid him a courtesy call, that Nigeria now had sufficient equipment for her agricultural projects and that the area of need was storage and preservation.

The minister also told the ambassador that Nigeria would require the assistance of the Soviet Union in the improvement of her (?mass) transport system. The ambassador's visit focused on the possible review of the technical cooperation agreement between Nigeria and the Soviet Union.

Joint Commission Meeting With Bulgaria Ends

AB272156 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1500 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Nigeria and Bulgaria have agreed to establish small and medium-size workshops as well as large-scale farms in Kwara State. The workshops will be for the fabrication, repair, and maintenance of spare parts, while the farms will produce maize, sorghum, and paddy rice.

Announcing this in Lagos today, the minister of national planning, Dr Kalu I. Kalu, said Nigeria and Bulgaria had also agreed that two dams would be designed and constructed in Waby and one on River Benue in Gongola State. Dr Kalu was speaking after the signing of the protocol of the fourth session of the Nigeria-Bulgaria Joint Commission which ended today. The minister welcomed Bulgaria's readiness to purchase manufactured goods from Nigeria and implored other developed nations to follow the example.

Responding, the Bulgarian deputy minister premier [title as heard], Grigor Stoichkov, said he would like to see conditions which would create balanced trade between the two countries.

Cultural Accords With Tanzania; Media Criticized

AB261226 Lagos Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The minister of information and culture, Prince Tony Momoh, today played host to Governor Ekundayo Opaleye of Ondo State and Tanzania's minister of culture, community development, youth, and sports, Mrs Fatuma Said Ali.

Governor Opaleye was in Prince Momoh's office to solicit the Federal Government's assistance in solving some communications problems in the state while the Tanzanian minister's visit was in connection with the signing of a cultural agreement between her country and Nigeria. Emmanuel Omola covered the two audiences for Radio Nigeria.

He began this report with the cultural agreements.

[Begin Omola recording] Besides the commercial and cultural activities, the agreement also seeks to further mutual cooperation in the areas of sports, quick scholarship programs, and exchange of visits by journalists. Prince Momoh said the signing of the agreement was the climax of 3 years' efforts and he hoped that the agreement would be of immense benefit to both countries. The Tanzanian minister, Mrs Fatuma Ali, noted that the agreement was yet another step toward enhancing cooperation between both countries. The agreement was also, in her view, a practical demonstration of Tanzania's commitment to South-South cooperation. Mrs Ali proposed a meeting of technical experts from the two countries as soon as possible on the harmonization of the agreement.

Earlier, when Governor Ekundayo Opaleye called on Prince Momoh to complain about the poor reception of NTA [Nigerian Television Authority] network programs in his state, he said the state had been cut off, communications wise, from the rest of the country. He, therefore, appealed to the minister to render assistance to NTA so that it could improve on its services. The governor also expressed (?grief) about the Federal Government's intention to commercialize the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria [FRCN]. He was of the view that the move would throw the state radio out of business. The state radio, Colonel Opaleye explained, had relied mainly on proceeds from advertisements to pay staff salaries and cover other expenditures.

Responding, Prince Tony Momoh said that the problem of poor reception of NTA network programs was nationwide. For example, he said, NTA broadcasts in Bauchi were hardly received in Azare. The state government, he said, had made a grant of 300,000 naira to assist the NTA in acquiring generators to boost operations. Prince Momoh said it was a similar case with Benue State, which was spending about 1.4 million naira on the improvement of communications services in the area.

On the issue of commercializing the FRCN, the minister said that because the government found it almost impracticable to profitize the FRCN, it decided to commercialize it, or else it would have had to wind up. He expressed the optimism that the move would be of great advantage to the state. And that apart from advertisement, the FRCN would, through joint efforts with state radio stations, produce for sale items like tapes, gramophone records, and other materials. Prince Momoh called on the states to contribute to the funding of communications development. [end recording]

SIERRA LEONE

Further on Aftermath of Failed Coup Attempt

Army Commander Backs Momoh

AB281742 Paris AFP in French 1653 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Freetown, 28 Mar (AFP) — General Mohamed Tarawalli, commander of the Sierra Leone Armed Forces, today swore allegiance to President Joseph Momoh while condemning last week's plot by a handful of embittered and unscrupulous individuals. During a ceremony at the Presidency, General Tarawalli, who led the corps of armed forces senior officers, affirmed that the Army and the other security forces had shown their loyalty to the regime by acting rapidly against the conspirators.

Meanwhile, armored vehicles have been brought in as reinforcements to the maximum security Central Prison, where those suspected of participating in the coup plot are being held. According to the police, these security measures were taken after threatening letters were received at police headquarters and the Presidency of the Republic.

Momoh Says 43 Arrested

AB271600 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Freetown, March 27 (AFP) — Forty-three people, including 15 non-commissioned officers, have now been arrested in connection with Monday's alleged attempt to overthrow the Government of Sierra Leone, President Joseph Momoh told journalists here Friday.

The president, speaking for the first time to the press after the failed coup attempt, said that the plotters wanted to destabilise the peace and security of Sierra Leone and damage the economic recovery programme undertaken by his administration. He said the plotters, whose ringleader he identified as Assistant Police Superintendent Mohamed Kaikai, were not wealthy enough to have procured the sophisticated arms discovered after the plot was smashed.

The arms and ammunition, he said, had been manufactured in several countries including Austria, Warsaw Pact states, West Germany and the United States, adding that they were widely available in the world arms market.

The president asked repeatedly, "Who are the real players?" adding that the weapons were "made to cause untold destructions." He urged investigating officials to be "most unrelenting" in their task. "Whether wealthy or powerful, high or low, the culprits will be exposed as enemies of Sierra Leone, and if they hope to deserve mercy they will not get it from me," he said.

The weapons, which included AK-47 rifles, mortars, rocket launchers, pistols and anti-aircraft guns were displayed at the press conference.

Meanwhile, the hunt for more suspects continues and the police and army have mounted security checks at the borders to prevent any escape.

A police spokesman said the border checks would continue indefinitely.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Message From France's Chirac

MB280743 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1900 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, granted an audience today to (Patrick Longue), chairman of the French International Distribution Company [name as heard], who delivered a message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. (Patrick Longue) has been in Angola for several days and has already been received by Pedro de Castro van Dunem, minister of state for production.

The Angolan head of state also met today with Anatole Kounkou, the Congolese ambassador to Angola, and discussed issues of bilateral interest.

BOTSWANA

USSR's Gilashvili Details Agreements, Talks

MB272022 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1910 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The Soviet vice president [title as heard] and head of the Soviet parliamentary delegation which visited Botswana this week, Mr Pavel Georgiyevich Gilashvili, has said his discussions with Botswana's leaders were centered on the political situation in southern Africa and aimed at maintaining and developing good relations with Botswana.

Mr Gilashvili and his delegation left Botswana yesterday after a 3-day visit during which they met the president, Dr Quett Masire; the vice president, Mr Peter Mmusi; and the minister for external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe.

Mr Gilashvili told journalists yesterday morning that an agreement had been reached covering a number of areas of cooperation. This includes an underground water project and trade union relations. Mr Gilashvili said the minister of commerce and industry, Mr M. Kwako Nwako, would be going to Moscow in May to sign the agreement. He said it was the policy of the Soviet Union to openly support independent countries, and, to this end, the Soviet Union had already funded 50 projects in the region and would be financing 63 more in the future.

The trip by the Soviet parliamentary delegation to the Frontline States was aimed at informing the leaders of these states of the changes taking place in all spheres of life in the Soviet Union and to express solidarity with the people of the region in their struggle against apartheid. The Soviet mission has already visited Angola, Zambia, and Botswana. It is now in Zimbabwe and will proceed to Mozambique and Tanzania.

MOZAMBIQUE

USSR To Supply $15 Million in Aid in 1987

MB271212 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Mozambique will receive some $15 million worth of Soviet aid this year. This was announced by (Hanfy Pitorenko), consul general of the USSR in Beira. The consul general, who was speaking during a meeting with journalists, said the assistance includes fuel, clothing, consumer goods, and the training of cadres in the social, economic, agricultural, health, education, and other sectors. Referring to the economic field in particular, the Soviet official said equipment will be sent to the port of Beira for the construction of an agricultural machinery factory.

42 'Bandits' Killed, 14 Captured in Cuamba

MB281201 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Forty-two armed bandits have been killed and 14 others captured in the area of Cuamba, in southern Niassa Province, during FPLM offensives over the past few months. According to Colonel Rafael Romoja, commander of the FPLM forces in Cuamba, this offensive led to victories unprecedented in the history of the fight against armed banditry.

These clashes resulted in the destruction of eight bandit camps and the capture of weapons, including some South African ones, and a large quantity of ammunition. During the offensive, the FPLM forces freed more than 2,000 peasants living under the yoke of the bandits in the area of (Muitetere).

In an interview with the Radio Mozambique correspondent in Niassa Province, Col Romoja said the armed bandits of South Africa [as heard] have been ambushing lone cars on the road and attacking people on plantations to secure food.

Also from Niassa Province, we have information that (Lucas Praulina Manhaca), a bandit ringleader, recently surrendered to the authorities in (Muitetere), Cuamba District.

FPLM Destroys 'Armed Bandit Camp' in Nampula

MB291009 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0605 GMT 29 Mar 87

[From the "Armed Forces of Combat" program]

[Text] FPLM forces destroyed an important armed bandit camp in Nametil, Nampula Province, last week. In this action, our forces killed 40 armed bandits and captured another 6, along with their weapons. Also seized were 4 bazookas, boxes of light weapons ammunition, 25 cartridges for automatic weapons, 7 radios, 18 field tents, military overcoats, 23 knapsacks, and other military equipment. The captured armed bandits supplied important information to our forces regarding their plans in the province, including the number of armed bandits who infiltrated Nampula Province recently. A quantity of goods stolen from people's homes and shops was recovered by our forces, including 26 new pieces of cotton fabric, 34 pairs of shoes, crockery, cutlery, cups, and a quantity of cloth for ladies and children's clothing.

NAMIBIA

Police Kill More than 60 SWAPO 'Insurgents'

MB291148 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1140 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Windhoek March 29 SAPA — A special police counter-insurgency unit had shot and killed more than 60 SWAPO insurgents in the past month, according to news reports published in Windhoek today.

In the latest armed encounter, the unit (populary known as Koevoet) tracked down and killed three SWAPO insurgents in skirmishes in northern SWA/Namibia on Wednesday.

In another incident, insurgents attacked a temporary military base near Oshigambo in northern SWA/Namibia and wounded 10 soldiers who had been admitted to a hospital for treatment.

A police contingent was attacked on Wednesday by 16 SWAPO insurgents with RPG-7 rockets.

The officer commanding the unit, General Hans Dreyer, said this week that tracking of the insurgents at this time of the year was being complicated by dense vegetation which restricted vision on the ground. An added complication was that insurgents who were infiltrating northern SWA/Namibia this year had been intensively trained in techniques to comouflage their trail.

According to a news report, Koevoet had shot and killed more than 3000 SWAPO insurgents since 1979 for the loss of 145 men.

SOUTH AFRICA

Environment Minister Found Dead, Shot in Head

MB291108 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1107 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 29 SAPA — The minister of environmental affairs, Mr John Wiley, was found dead on his bed this morning with a bullet wound in the temple, police said.

A senior police spokesman told SAPA by telephone Mr Wiley's wife went to [their] home — "Lushof" near Fish Hoek — this morning and found it locked.

Her son climbed through a window about 11:30am and opened the house.

Mr Wiley was found on his bed with a wound in his right temple. A .32 pistol was found at the scene.

Police did not suspect foul play "at this stage," the spokesman said, adding investigations were continuing.

P.W. Botha Issues Statement

MB291737 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1735 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town March 29 SAPA — The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, tonight expressed his shock and dismay at the sudden death of the minister of environmental affairs and of water affairs, Mr John Wiley.

Mr Wiley was found shot dead in his Noordehoek home near Cape Town today.

In a statement released in Cape Town, Mr Botha said: "The devastating news of the sudden death of our colleague has shocked us to the hilt."

"My family and I, as well as the National Party and thousands of South Africans, have heard of the circumstances of his death with great dismay," Mr Botha said.

"I got to know Mr Wiley in 1966 when he was elected MP for Simons Town for the United Party.

"Although we represented different political parties, I got to know him through our discussions between myself as minister of defence and him as representative of a constituency intimately involved in defence matters and in which the South African Navy was strongly represented.

"He showed a great interest in the South African Defence Force in general and the Navy in particular.

"Even during his years as a member of the opposition, I learnt to respect him and the views he expressed.

"When he approached me a number of years ago to inform me that he intended joining the National Party, I welcomed his move.

"He was a respected member of parliament. In his dealings with his colleagues he was reserved, but honestly outspoken. As a deputy minister he quickly showed that he was a person who could get to the crux of a matter quickly," Mr Botha said.

He had made an outstanding contribution towards conservation of the environment as well as the preservation of South Africa's fishing resources.

"He also did excellent work as minister of water affairs. He was an original thinker and dedicated to his work. He devoted himself, particularly during the last few years, to the creation of a better understanding and greater cooperation between English- and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans.

"In this respect, I considered him both a pioneer and an advisor.

"He was a friend of myself, my wife and my family and his tragic death is deeply mourned by us. I wish to express our deepest sympathies to his mother, his wife and his family.

"I am convinced that thousands of people throughout South Africa and particularly the residents of Simons Town will heartily associate themselves with these views."

Tutu May Ask To Meet P.W. Botha on ANC Talks

MB271422 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1421 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Cape Town, March 27, SAPA — Archbishop Desmond Tutu may ask to meet President P.W. Botha to discuss his talks with the African National Congress.

Archbishop Tutu confirmed today he might meet the government to put to them the possibility that the ANC might renounce violence in return for the release of political leaders.

But he said he would first have to consult advisers before deciding whether he should request the meeting.

The Anglican archbishop of Cape Town reported back today to the Anglican clergy on his meeting with members of the ANC executive in Lusaka.

He said his "major pitch" was his request to the exiled organisation to renounce "the armed struggle." The ANC knew his position of opposing all violence.

He had told members of the executive, including ANC President Oliver Tambo, that if they renounced violence this would throw the ball firmly back into the government's court.

The matter had been thrown open for discussion, but it was felt there had not been significant changes which could justify changing ANC policies.

Archbishop Tutu said the ANC told him there had been similar requests before but it was particularly significant coming from him.

If something significant happened, such as the release of Nelson Mandela, that would be a new factor, something the ANC could use to justify changing policies.

Archbishop Tutu said he met Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, who told him he (Archbishop Tutu) "was probably being unrealistic in expecting an organisation, which had been committed to the armed struggle for 20 years and had paid a heavy price," to concede to his request.

"He said one visit was probably not enough to turn them around and that I would probably need to spend more time.

Archbishop Tutu said he did not know if the government would want to meet him now "because they've got their election".

Replying to a question, he said he would again take the initiative in the future to meet the ANC.

P.W. Botha Makes Initial Campaign Speech

MB261155 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1022 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 26, SAPA — The four main thrusts of the National Party's election campaign were set out by the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, in his first public address to voters in Lichtenburg last night.

Addressing about 2,000 people, President Botha condemned and rejected foreign interference and sanctions against South Africa, particularly United States involvement, and underlined the threat to national security by communist-dominated revolutionary forces.

He also dealt at some length with the real need to give urban blacks participation in government to the highest level and emphasised the need for white solidarity, criticising the negative, hampering effect opposition parties to the left and right were having on the government's social, economic and political reform programme.

In one of his strongest attacks yet on the outside world, Mr Botha hit out at the United States Congress for its "selective morality" in imposing sanctions against South Africa, which had the "direct result of fanning violence" and did not encourage responsible and peaceful (black) leaders to come forward to negotiate a new constitutional order with the government. Sanctions were acclaimed only by revolutionaries, and it was "tragic" American foreign policy had been hijacked by politicians who did not care what they had set in motion.

President Ronald Reagan and responsible forces in the U.S. were powerless in the face of political manoevring by left wing and radical politicians and elements and "the Kremlin's work has been done for it in Washington."

British Premier Mrs Margaret Thatcher also came in for criticism on the grounds that she had "personally" assured him her government would have nothing to do with an organisation committed to violence, but that her foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had then held discussions with the African National Congress leader, Mr Oliver Tambo.

Mr Botha said he sympathised with Israel's dilemma of having been forced to cut military ties with South Africa for fear of losing billions of dollars annually in American aid.

"I do not believe Western governments fully realise the implications of their actions on South Africa." The international sanctions campaign was a "diabolically conceived strategy" which was hurting those it was intended to help, namely the blacks.

On the threat to national security and efforts by communist-dominated revolutionaries to destroy "justice and freedom," Mr Botha said South Africa was in the front line of a Western struggle against these forces. The South African Communist Party, the ANC and their "fellow travellers" — many of them so-called innocent organisations within the country — were exploiting every opportunity to weaken his government. "I am able to state with complete confidence that the government is resisting this threat effectively in every sphere ... but we need your help," he told listeners.

Referring to actions and standpoints of opposition parties, he asked: "Why is the government being weakened and paralysed while we are endeavouring with dedication to keep the forces of chaos and bloodshed away from South Africa?" The government had been proved right in imposing the state of emergency and this would not be lifted until proper law and order had been restored.

Turning to urban blacks' constitutional future and the government's request for a mandate to negotiate structures to bring them into decision-making processes up to the highest level, Mr Botha said it was untrue to allege constitutional development, negotiation and dialogue had come to a halt.

Outlining his plan for a national council to provide for black representation with whites, coloureds and Indians as a precursor to a council of state, he indicated special elections for blacks to identify the real leaders in black communities who should be negotiated with. Self-appointed leaders could not be negotiated with, and all participants in the process would have to foreswear violence and be committed to moving into the future peacefully and constructively.

Black urban communities in South Africa had been accepted as permanent political entities in their own right and there was no reason why areas like Soweto could no become independent "city states."

Negotiations and discussions had already taken place over a wide front with leading figures from almost every possible group that rejected violence.

Drawing attention to the need for white unity in South Africa, Mr Botha said it was clear from ANC documents acquired by his government that the organisation welcomed and encouraged divisions among the white community and efforts to alienate them from the government. In all the documents the only white leader pinpointed for destruction was himself, and the reason for this was that the ANC knew none of the other political parties' leaders could come come power. Mr Botha said he was not implying some of these other leaders were "friends of the communists, but I ask why they are standing in the way of the government in its fight against communism."

The ANC was aiming at mobilising a "broad white front, with limited short term objectives to bring about the end of the state of emergency, the release of detainees and the unbanning of political organisations". This, the ANC hoped, would paralyse the government and bring about its downfall.

P.W. Botha Refuses To 'Tamper' With Group Areas

MB280536 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2055 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Ermelo March 27, SAPA — Although the government was prepared to amend and improve the Group Areas Act to remove obstacles, the principle of separate established communities in their own residential areas would not be tampered with, the State President Mr P.W. Botha said tonight.

In his second election address to about 1,000 people in the civic centre here, he dealt at length with the need to retain the principles of the Group Areas Act.

"As long as I am head of this government I am not prepared to allow the established rights of these communities — white, black, coloured and Indian — to be undermined.

"These rights must be protected."

In his wide-ranging address Mr Botha also raised the issue of independent candidates' campaign funding and said they owed it to South Africa to reveal whether their backing came only from this country or whether foreign interests were also involved.

However, he was not going to take the matter further because there was still plenty of time before the May 6 elections. President Botha also criticised the hampering effect opposition parties on the left and right wing were having on the National Party government's programme for a peaceful South Africa.

He reiterated his party's standpoint that truly representative leaders of black communities outside the homelands had to be negotiated with and brought into the political decision-making process to the highest level.

On the Group Areas Act, Mr Botha said he was being attacked by the right-wing who said he was dismantling the act, and by the left-wing who said he was not making any move to dismantle it.

"No law in any country of the world is a holy cow."

A law was there to achieve a purpose and if it was not doing so then it had to be changed.

The Group Areas Act had been amended 17 times already "because we had to adapt to circumstances and problems that came up."

What was most important was that the principle of own residential areas and own cultural life in these areas was maintained and protected.

"This is what the NP stands for."

Mr Botha said the "rich multi-cultural variety" of the different population groups and communities in South Africa was a reality which nobody could change or deny. The Group Areas Act's principles offered the opportunity for "own cultural life, education and so on in own residential areas, and also it provides flexibility through permit control for areas which are undeclared." Mr Botha said people called these latter areas "grey" but the fact was that these had existed all along "and they will probably continue in the future in South Africa."

He denied that he had interferred with the President's Council's investigation into the act, but had only insisted that every single aspect of this legislation be fully examined. Since the Group Areas was enacted, residential areas for the various race groups had become established and would not be tampered with. His standpoint was that the devolution and sharing of power and the protection of minority communities in South Africa could not take place without own residential areas being acknowledged and protected.

President Botha emphasised that "own" residential areas were of the utmost importance, especially in urban areas, for the protection of "the poor, white worker." He had seen the deplorable circumstances in which they had lived in black townships like Sophiatown "until we gave them security and a future in their own residential areas ... this is their protection." The rich white man could afford to pay for his apartheid in exclusive areas but the poor white man had to live where he could afford to.

The coloured and Indian communities also had established rights in their own residential areas which had been protected and he would like to know what their reaction would have been if the black township unrest had affected them in integrated suburbs.

"We are investigating the Group Areas Act, and we are prepared to amend and improve it to remove obstacles but we are not prepared to tamper with the principle of own residential areas," Mr Botha said.

WEEKLY MAIL Carries 'Apartheid Barometer'

MB280528 Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English 27 Mar-2 Apr 87 p 4

["Apartheid Barometer;" all figures as published]

[Text] **Public Violence Arrests**

Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said in parliament that 11,000 people were arrested and 7,710 charged for public violence and other alleged offences relating to township unrest last year.

He said these arrests related to the following alleged offences: public violence (6,046); malicious damage to property (1,188); arson (1,324); assault (1,609) and murder (839). He said of the 7,710 charged, 5,819 were aged 20 or under, of whom 1,144 were 15 or under, 2,076 were 16 to 18 and 2,599 were aged 18 to 20.

Prison Assaults

The Minister of Justice, Kobie Coetsee, said in parliament that a total of 1,592 complaints of assault were made by prisoners against warders last year. In 1,175 of these cases "no substance could be found ... to institute charges against any member of the Prisons Service." Of the remaining 417 complaints, 82 were referred to the police for further investigation while 335 complaints resulted in departmental hearings. As a result of these hearings, 87 members were found guilty on 83 charges, 197 members were found not guilty on 179 charges and 73 charges involving 77 members were still being finalised, he said.

SADF Detention Barracks

The SADF has five detention barracks [DB] capable of accommodating 429 offenders as at February 9, 1987, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, said in parliament. He said it was not possible to give the average number of offenders held in military DB last year.

Removals

A total of 64,180 black people were "resettled" in South Africa or moved to the "homelands" in 1986, Minister of Constitutional Development Chris Heunis said in parliament. He said 61,228 blacks had been resettled in South Africa and 2,952 had been moved from the urban areas to the "homelands". He mentioned seven towns or communities (six in the Transvaal and one in the Cape) with a total population of 21,973 to 22,973, which had been earmarked for "future resettlement." Among the communities to be resettled were those at Oukasie near Brits, Haasbult at Soekmekaar, Thusang at Roedtan, a township at Duiwelskloof, Tshikoto at Louis Trichard, the Wheeler's Farm squater community at Vanderbijlpark and the McNaughton's section of Kabah township at Uitenhage which currently houses 7,230 people, he said.

In addition to the above removals, Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha said in parliament, 32,273 people were ordered to be removed from South Africa last year — 32,242 of them Africans, 29 whites and two Indians.

Group Areas

A total of 923 cases were investigated under the Group Areas Act last year, Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok said in parliament.

Minister of Constitutional Development Chris Heunis said in parliament that a total of 455 group areas had been proclaimed for whites (789,886 ha), 361 for coloureds (97,423 ha) and 127 for Indians (50,673 ha) by the end of 1986. This means over 84 percent of the Group Areas land is reserved for whites.

Race Re-classifications

Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha said in parliament that there were 1,624 applications for "race re-classifications" in 1986, of which 522 were refused.

Hangings

A total of 121 people were hanged in South Africa last year, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee said in parliament. By March 4 this year 14 people had been hanged in 1987, bringing the total number of people hanged in South Africa since 1969 to 1,589, 1,067 of them since 1978. This figure does not include hangings in the "independent homelands." In 1985 137 people were hanged, in 1984 115 and in 1983 90.

Whippings

A total of 40,655 people received corporal punishment between July 1985 and June 1986, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee said in parliament. He said 38,298 people (22,398 Africans, 13,875 coloureds, and 1,566 whites) were sentenced to corporal punishment as well as prison.

Brain Drain

According to the Central Statistical Services, South Africa lost 6,717 people to migration last year, the first year in recent memory that South Africa has not gained people through migration.

	Emigration:	Immigration:
1983:	8,247	30,483 (22 237)
1984:	8,793	28,793 (20 243)
1985:	11,401	17,284 (5 883)
1986:	13,711	6,994 (-6 717)

Prisoner of Conscience

Popo Molefe, 35, UDF national general secretary, was detained on April 23, 1985 and has been held in detention and police custody as one of the Delmas Treason Trialists ever since.

Molefe was born into a working class family in Sophiatown, and in 1959 his family was forced to move to Soweto. In 1973 he joined the SA Students Movement and in 1974 he joined the Black People's Convention [BPC]. He was headboy of Naledi High and a member of the Soweto Students' Representative Council when the uprising began on June 16. On August 18, 1976, he was detained and held without trial for seven months. On his release he continued working in the BPC until it was banned on October 19, 1977.

Over the next six years he worked as a machine operator, shop assistant and records clerk and as a worker joined the General and Allied Workers' Union in 1980. Molefe was a founder member of AZAPO in 1978 and was elected Soweto chairman in 1979. He resigned in 1981 because of his committment to the Freedom Charter and his belief in non-racialism. In 1982 he served as coordinator of the Anti-Republic Day Committee and was elected to the Soweto Committee of Ten. He helped form the Soweto Civic Association and was elected education and training coordinator.

In 1983 he played a leading role in the formation of UDF and in August that year was elected national general secretary. In October 1984 he was detained and was released without trial in January 1985. On April 23 he was again detained under Section 28 of the Internal Security Act and was later one of 22 people charged with treason. He has spent a total of three years of his life behind bars without having been convicted of any offence. He is married and has three children.

Banned Books, Publications and Objects

Action on Namibia: Winter 1986/7 (Namibian Support Committee, London); *South-west Africa National Union Swanu Ideology and Policy Working Paper No One* and *South-west Africa National Union Our Struggle for the Unconditional Independence of Namibia* (both produced by Swanu); *APDUSA Special Issue* (Unity Movement of South Africa, London); *City Limits* magazine January 8-15 (City Limits Subs, London); *Christina's Hunger* and *Christina's Sins* (both produced by Blakely St James); *The World's Top Glamour Models* (Viclen Promotions, Turffontein); *If You Want An Increase You Have to Lick The Bosses A.. And He Is Always Full of S..t* — display card (not stated). Three films were banned: Separate Vacations, Magnificent Lover, and Bloody Birthday.

Unbanned: *South Africa Today Church in the World* 21 (Australian Catholic Relief, Australia); *FNV* magazine: 2de Jaargang No 13, November 22, 1986 (FNV Pers, Amsterdam); *Sexual Life Between Blacks and Whites* (Beth Day); *Southern Africa Stands Up* (Wilfred Burchett (unbanned for possession but still banned for importation/distribution).

Information Bureau Issues 27 Mar Unrest Report

MB281725 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1656 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 28, SAPA — The Bureau for Information reported that only one possible unrest-related incident had occured in the 24-hour period ending midnight last night. "In Soweto a private motor vehicle was reported stolen."

28 March Unrest Report

MB290955 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0953 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 29 SAPA — The Bureau for Information reported today that "very few" unrest-related incidents were reported up to midnight. The incidents conisted mainly of stone-throwing in the Port Elizabeth and Natal areas, a spokesman said by telephone. Damage caused during the incidents was minimal. No ome was arrested and no one was injured.

29 March Unrest Report

MB300800 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0758 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria, March 30, SAPA — Herewith the Bureau for Information's unrest report for the 24-hour period ended yesterday:

"A member of the security forces was wounded in the left arm yesterday when an unidentified person fired two shots at him in Kliptown (Soweto). The member, Nelson Luke, 21, was discharged from hospital after tretement. No arrests have been reported.

"A group of about 50 black persons stoned an SAP footpatrol in Lingelihle (Cradock) yesterday. The patrol warded off the attack with tearsmoke. No injuries or arrests were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB280453[Editorial Report]

CITIZEN on Economy's 'Resilience'

"The idea is gaining ground that disinvestment is counter-productive, that sanctions don't work, that South Africa is strong enough to ride out the storms that surround it," Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 27 March says in a page 6 editorial. "The South African economy is showing the resilience that one could have expected of it if people had not been reduced to a blind funk because of the violence, the machinations of overseas banks and the run on the rand. So we'll repeat what we said after Sharpeville, after the Soweto '76 riots and during the present long wave of unrest — the South African economy is too strong to be destroyed. We are by no means over our troubles, and we still have to set the scene for constitutional reform involving Blacks, but things are better than they have been for a long time. South Africa is on the march again."

STAR Stresses Election's Significance

In an editorial on the coming whites-only election, Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 27 March says in a page 12 editorial that the elections have become "an event of considerable significance for the country's future. The big, real issues have been forced to the forefront willy nilly, and the crumbling National Party monolith has accelerated the process." "To encourage a return to confident government and to have the spirit of reconciliation reflected as far as possible in the new House of Assembly is of the utmost importance for the whole country. Every white voter should therefore try to make his or here vote count to maximum effect in the constituencies. Any vote to the 'left' will frustrate revolutionaries and benefit the long-term future of South Africa. There is no need whatever to hold back for fear of the right."

BUSINESS DAY on P.W. Botha Speech

Commenting on President P.W. Botha's speech in Lichtenburg, Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 27 March says in a page 6 editorial that Botha deserves credit for expressing a willingness to negotiate with black leaders, for saying that "the representation of black people cannot be confined to local and provincial government, and that fresh thinking on the subject is required," and for "the note of realism in his observation that special elections will need to be held to enable urban communities, and other communities outside the Bantustans to select their representatives for negotiations. This tacit admission that negotiations cannot be fruitfully held with self-appointed or government-appointed black leaders is an advance on the thinking of the National Party. But that is where it ends. The Party's policy on black representation remains as opaque as ever, its specifics unstated and its true meaning concealed behind phrases like 'representation at the highest possible level.' The State President has done nothing to explain his ultimate objective, to say where we are headed under Nationalist rule." Besides the lack of a clearer policy, "there is a still greater flaw in the State President's thinking. It is this: Elections in which the outcome is rigged in advance have no greater value than mere appointments. If elected leaders are to carry the respect of their constituencies — so that they can bind those constituencies to a negotiated settlement — the elections must be seen to be free and fair, and open to all parties. To exclude the ANC, whatever the grounds, defeats the President's purpose."

Worrall Campaign Lacks Organization

"Despite the glamour and glitz" of Denis Worrall's campaign as an independent candidate in Helderberg, "the hard reality is tht he may have bitten off more than he can chew in trying to pull off the election upset of SA's political history," Barry Streek and Anthony Johnson write on the same page. Although Worrall appears to have many enthusiastic supporters, "organisational expertise and tedious leg work" are far more important, "and here the well-oiled Chris Heunis machine is streets ahead of anything the Worrall team, for all its enthusiasm, can muster." Furthermore, by deliberately distancing himself from the PFP, Worrall may be making matters worse for himself, particularly over such things as postal votes, for which the PFP has an efficient and experienced organization. "There is no way Worrall, or all the independents together, can match the NP's national organisation on postal votes. By avoiding the PFP postal vote network, he is almost certainly losing votes."

CAPE TIMES on Debt Agreement

Commenting on South Africa's agreement with its creditor banks on repaying its debt, Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 26 March says in a page 12 editorial: "A lot of ground still has to be recovered before we can get back to where we were financially in pre-Rubicon days, but prospects are brightening. Given a little help from more enlightened political policies it might just be found that international bankers will again want to lend this country money rather than merely co-operate on ways to slow down repayments."

CITY PRESS: May Holiday Political Game

"President P.W. Botha is playing politics" with the issue of the May workers holiday, opines the Johannesburg *City Press* in English for 29 March [date as published] in a page 2 editorial. "Workers throughout the country will observe May 1 as a holiday with the resultant industrial disruptions...." "What all of this tells us is that we have a government which has lost direction and a sense of purpose. They are tragically dragging their heels...." "...Anybody who tells us that apartheid is dead must have a serious and searching rethink." "And as long as racism exists — or traces of it — there will never be peace and stablity in South Africa."

29 March Press Review

MB290430[Editorial Report]

STAR: Group Areas Dead in Johannesburg

"Johannesburg, with its growing social crises as thousands of blacks, Indians, and coloured people...find accommodation...is providing a foretaste of South Africa's looming national dilemma," reports Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 28 March in its page 10 editorial. "The dilemma: how will metropolitan communities react to the post-apartheid era? Make no mistake, the battle against apartheid in central Johannesburg is over. It has been won." "There is no going back." "A fascinating aspect of Johannesburg's so far not too painful transition has been the ambivalence — the sheer confusion — displayed by the Government over the mixing of Hillbrow." "The fall of the Group Areas Act in inner Johannesburg is now inevitable and perhaps more imminent than many believe. How Johannesburgers, black or white, adjust to the post-apartheid period is undoubtedly going to set the pace for how quickly the rest of South Africa will shake off apartheid."

Confused Over Court Action

"If you are confused about the implications of *The Star* court action this week — join the club," confesses Harvey Tyson in his "Undercurrent Affairs" column on the same page. "I, too, am bewildered by a case packed with legalities but which hardly touched on the central issue." "Are people not allowed to speak their minds publicly about detention without trial? My view is that nothing so draconian can be implied in the regulations; nothing so drastic and undemocratic has yet been tolerated by Parliament." "It would seem that the police have a different view from ours, but until we are legally prevented from campaigning against detention without trial we shall go on doing so." "You cannot keep thousands of people, including children, penned up indefinitely. The result is more bitterness — and conversion to extremism." "Quite simply: *You cannot have security unless you have justice.*"

P.W. Botha's Position Suspect

"The white general election is even more a test of President Botha's position in politics than it is of the National Party," writes John Patten in "The Independent" column on the same page. Botha may be "trying to assess when he can safely retire leaving his party in the driving seat." "At the same time, there is growing disenchantment (almost incipient rebellion) among Nationalst politicians about his present style of leadership and his judgment on key issues of policy. Whispers are doing the rounds of personality clashes between Mr Botha and certain ministers, growing anger at his tyrannical outbursts and dissatisfaction in the Cabinet at the calling of the election against the wishes of most Cabinet members." "Nationalists believe this is Mr Botha's farewell election." In regard to possible successors, "if anything, the election result may slightly damage the chances of...F.W. de Klerk, because the Nationalists are likely to lose more seats in Mr de Klerk's provincial power base than in other provinces." Rival Chris Heunis is "considerably handicapped," as "his efforts at constitutional reform, on which his political reputation depends, have been smothered by President Botha...." "President Botha, with or without a good election win this year, may thus have to opt for retirement without actually being able to manipulate who will be his successor."

Blacks Skeptical of Jews

"Israeli-SA relations are hogging the headlines once again after Israel's decision, at Washington's behest, to reduce its secret military dealings with Pretoria," notes Barney Mthombothi in "All Things Considered" on page 11. "Black South Africans, rightly or wrongly, have tended to see a parallel in their position and that of the Palestinians in the Middle East." "This feeling of comradeship is set to grow especially with the increasing Muslim influence in anti-apartheid organisations." "Israel worries about the likely effect of its sanctions on the Jewish community in South Africa. Organisations representing the Jewish community are an enigma to black people. Black South Africans find it difficult to understand how a people with the experiences of the terrible things that happened to them in the Holocaust still fresh in their minds can be so oblivious or simply indifferent to another manifestation of racial intolerance and bigotry." "A former Israeli diplomat said this week South African Jews did not need Israel's support. 'They are part of the white power structure and benefit from it,' he said. It is a view widely shared by many black people."

30 March Press Review

MB300728[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES on Debt Rescheduling Agreement

A page 22 editorial in Johannesburg Sunday Times in English on 29 March says the debt rescheduling agreement "should not be underestimated — least of all when one considers recessionary conditions, active disinvestment pressures, a brain drain, faltering foreign and domestic investment confidence and the Government's own political turpitude." For the government to claim credit for the agreement is "fatuous." It has been achieved "not because of the Government, but despite it." The editorial says the agreement signals "the ability of the South African economy to create a fragile breathing space — despite meddlesome do-gooders from abroad and home-grown political stumblefoots. Will the country and its political leaders now have the courage and the imagination to seize the moment?"

De Villiers on P.W. Botha Monopoly of SABC

Fleur de Villiers comments on "Mrs Thatcher and the BBC and Mr Botha and the SABC" in her "The View From London" column on the same page. She says South Africa's dilemma is "exemplified by this week's allegedly unanimous support by SABC staffers for its election coverage — extracted by the simple expedient of making them an offer they couldn't refuse. For those who did not agree that the SABC was fair, balanced and right, the door out of the monopoly and onto the street was always open." De Villiers says "here lies the true difference between Mrs Thatcher and the BBC and Mr Botha and the SABC. Mrs Thatcher will win her battle with the BBC by allowing the market to erode its power. Mr Botha needs the SABC's monopoly to retain his power."

Buthelezi on White 'Oppression' of Blacks

Chief Minister of Kwazulu Mangosuthu Buthelezi writes on page 23 that "this election is about reform and we are now watching white political parties squabbling and vying with each other about how they think black politics should be handled." "For a long time now blacks have watched whites play their party political democratic games as a smokescreen to hide their dictatorial social, economic and political oppression of blacks. However, times are changing and we are now watching the emerging ferment in white politics very carefully because it holds out a promise which is encouraging. For the first time in the National Party's history as a ruling party, it has been challenged from within by both its left and its right. The South African Government must simply learn that it is more important to look over its left shoulder than it is to look over its right shoulder." "I believe I sum up black feeling when I say that a white parliamentary session will come which must be the last whites-only election." "Our future remains dangerously insecure as long as the National Party remains in power. Whites need black allies if we are ever going to have democracy in this country. I hope they do not finally come to this conclusion at a time when they will have no allies left."

Whites Greater Reformist Tendency

A professor of southern African studies at the University of Cape Town, David Welsh, writes on the same page that a "powerful process of change" has "affected Afrikaners, a majority of whom have obviously constituted the major support base of the NP." "The forces pushing whites in general, and Afrikaners in particular, in the direction of less rigid, more flexible attitudes are stronger than those that encapsulate people in the archaic value systems." Welsh believes that even though this election may not unseat the NP it is significant that there is "wide diversity of opinion within the NP." "It seems reasonably clear from the many profiles of white opinion that, at the very least, the reformist tendency predominates over the reactionary one by quite a substantial margin — and that nearly 60 percent are ready for some form of powersharing." "The possible catalytic effect of the three significant independent candidates is hard to predict. Are they the tip of the iceberg, or the swallows that don't make the summer? If my analysis is correct, the independents and all the other dissidents are part of a trend which is irreversible — and hopeful."

Schwarz Blames NP on Economic Mismanagement

"The Government must finally be exposed for its inability to manage the economy," says the PFP spokesman for finance, Harry Schwarz, on the same page. He accuses the government of three counts of economic mismanagement: inflation, economic growth, and unemployment. He advises the government to "give the fight against inflation higher priority," and to fight it "without jeopardising job creation activity." "The Government must get off the backs of the people, and the red tape restraining entrepreneurial activity must be untied and removed." He points out that "politics and economics go hand in hand. Action on both fronts is needed to restore confidence. With confidence in ourselves and in our future, we will have a future."

SUNDAY STAR: Black Struggle Against Minority Rule

Jon Qwelane notes in the "Just Jon" column on page 15 of Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 29 March that "for political prisoners to be released and their organisations unbanned would, first of all, require that the conditions which sent them to prison and into exile be removed." "To many blacks inside and outside the country the struggle against minority rule is sacred; many of our people have sacrificed their lives in the cause of justice and freedom, and for many it is infinitely nobler to risk or lose even life itself for the cause than tolerate the jackboot of an order they had no part in instituting."

Reforms Extend No Political Rights

"The 25,000 South Africans estimated to have been detained since last June deserve to be a major issue in the election campaign," notes the page 16 editorial in Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 29 March. "The detentions and whatever have caused them are part of the wider political ferment that has gripped the country for 2 1/2 years now, and shows little sign of abating naturally because its basic causes still persist. At the root of that ferment is the failure of the Botha 'reforms' to extend democratic right to the black 75 percent of the country's population. The Government can't act because the Government doesn't know what to do about that central problem — or if it does know, that is where its will fails it." The "would-be enlightened talk" of the government is "accompanied, of course, by much stronger law-and-order stuff for the benefit of white voters. The mix seems likely to return the Government to power, as recent opinion polls suggest. But after that it will still need a policy."

NP Divided on Group Areas

"There are profound reasons for the total confusion which has broken out on Government policy concerning residential apartheid," notes political correspondent David Breier on the same page. "Some Nats don't mind if forced residential apartheid is scrapped. Some refuse to tolerate the idea, although they are prepared to make small concessions. Some Nats think the omelette of mixed areas can be unscrambled, others don't." "There are Nats who merely believe that if the Act were scrapped, it would make little practical difference to their suburbs as few members of other race groups could afford or even want to move in." But there are the "theorists of group thinking led by the guru himself, Mr Heunis. He argues that 'the concept of group rights is an indispensable part of my party's policy.'" The Group Areas Act "is a law which has direct implications on where people may vote. That is why those who believe their power lies in separate voting are digging in their heels at the Group Areas Act. If it goes, so could they."

Election To Measure Right-wing Strength

Gary van Staden says on pages 1 and 2 of the "Review" section of *The Sunday Star* that the government is "more afraid than previously" of the right wing "bogeyman." Van Staden believes that on 6 May the right-wing strength will be measured "once and for all." "While Government spokesmen (Mr Pik Botha excepted) have generally tended to soften their reformist line during the election campaign, there is little evidence to suggest that the trend away from the National Party to the right-wing has even been stemmed, let alone reversed." Van Staden believes "right-wing prospects for the election have been enhanced by the recent movement of left-wing National Party supporters, which has led to the Government being drained from two directions."

Terreblanche Views Compromise as Weakness

In the "Personality of the Week" column on page 2 Gary van Staden says "Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the extreme right-wing Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), racist, volk [people] hero, bigot or inspired leader depending on what side you are sitting, believes that 'compromise' was invented by inadequate weaklings." Anybody or anything threatening the Afrikaner people "becomes a sworn enemy and his philosophy is if someone has to be hurt in the process of his defence of the volk, then so be it." Terreblanche is "convinced that under the right leadership and given the proper motivation the Afrikaner nation can win a protracted guerilla war. Part of the strategy involved in this would be to seal off South Africa from the rest of the world — in theory, by dumping all foreign relations not suited to South Africa, and in practise, by closing the country's borders and mining the entire border with the rest of Africa."

TRANSVALER on Debt Rescheduling Agreement

A page 18 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 26 March comments on the debt rescheduling agreement saying "world bankers are no sentimentalists and much less simpletons. Their agreement with their creditor [as published] is evidence they recognize South Africa as a credible payer." The editorial also says the agreement is evidence of "increasing trust in the capabilities of the country's leaders," and of the fact that the bankers "do not attach great importance to the sanctions campaign. Hopefully these developments will further stimulate the already rose colored economic climate."

BURGER Urges South Africans to Unite

A page 16 editorial in Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 26 March says the debt rescheduling agreement proves that "South Africa is not on the verge of a blowup. The alarmist predictions that a hostile media projected to the world have been proven wrong. The psychological climate has changed. The fact that South Africa is so stable despite the violent onslaughts is indeed a remarkable achievement. However, it would be foolish to underestimate the onslaught against the country. The weakening of the stranglehold is not unconditional. South Africa's enemies are probably planning tougher attacks. Under such circumstances it is important that the stability that has been created be maintained. If ever there is a time when South Africans must push aside little differences and unite their ranks, it is now."

Left, Right Mutual 'Hate' For NP

"There is one accusation guaranteed to make the blood pressure of those on the far left and those on the far right rise: that their hate for the NP has given them the same obsession," says a second editorial on the same page. The paper notes that the independents are going to "get in with this strange collection of political bedfellows." If the independents do not want to harm the NP "why are they standing for seats that the NP has already won for reform?"

BEELD: NP Popularity Increasing

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 27 March says "South African voters are prepared for reform and powersharing. This is the conclusion one comes to when recent political opinion polls are examined. It is also clear that the NP is recovering from the blow it received at the beginning of the year." "Where the popularity of the NP is increasing, that of its opponents is decreasing." "Many voters who were formerly uncertain and even avoided the polls are again in favor of the NP. The ball must be kept rolling until 6 May."

Rightwing Policy Impractical

Willie Kuhn writes in the "Political Image" column on the same page that "the CP formula looks deceptively easy: A committee will be appointed to investigate the issue of a white fatherland. A law will declare an area a white area. If the other houses of parliament do not agree with this, the matter will be referred to the President's Council where the CP will have majority." Other race groups will not necessarily support Treurnicht and "all that remains is violence." Putting the right-wing policy into practice will be like triggering a "nuclear explosion." "Looking carefully at right-wing policy, the only conclusion one comes to is that it is an inflated plan that can never be put into practice."

ZIMBABWE

Gilashvili Says USSR May 'Intervene' Against RSA

MB271739 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Soviet Union says if the Pretoria regime continues its policy of destabilization against the Frontline States, Moscow will intervene militarily. This statement was made at a news conference in Harare today by the vice chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Comrade Pavel Gilashvili. Comrade Gilashvili, who was leading a 5-man Soviet delegation on a fact-finding tour of the Frontline States, also reaffirmed his country's continued support for the liberation struggle in Namibia and South Africa. He said the Soviet Union is prepared to assist the Frontline States in whatever way possible.

Details SADCC Training Aid

MB280800 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The head of the visiting Soviet parliamentarians, Comrade Pavel Gilashvili, says his country's assistance in training [word indistinct] cadres from SADCC countries is aimed at helping the Frontline States reduce dependence on South Africa. Speaking at a press conference in Harare yesterday, Comrade Gilashvili disclosed that about 15,000 cadres from the SADCC countries have so far been trained with his country's assistance. He said his delegation's visit to the Frontline States is not aimed at giving advice to those countries but is a fact-finding mission to promote Soviet understanding of the situation in the region.

Delegation Feted at Luncheon

MB261735 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The president of the Senate, Comrade Nolan Makombe, has reiterated Zimbabwe's preparedness to impose economic sanctions against racist South Africa. Comrade Makombe was speaking at a luncheon hosted in Harare today in honor of the visiting frontline Soviet delegation. [as heard] He told the delegation that the Soviet quest for peaceful coexistence can only be widened when the world is free from imperialism, colonialism, racism, and Zionism. Comrade Makombe said Zimbabwe has a lot to learn in parliamentary affairs and in social development from the Soviet Union. Earlier, the Soviet delegation visited the Heroes Acre in Harare.